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Standard History of

Adams and Wells Counties Indiana

An Authentic Narrative of the Past, with an Extended Survey of Modern Developments in the Progress of Town and Country

---

Under the Editorial Supervision of

JOHN W. TYNDALL. Decatur
For Adams County

and

O. E. LESH, Bluffton
For Wells County

Assisted by a Board of Advisory Editors

VOLUME I

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INTRODUCTION

Indiana has always stood for not only prosperity, but originality, whether considered from the standpoint of the commonwealth or the people. In politics it is often classed as doubtful, because its men and women are thinkers, as well as doers, and are not led against their wills. Especially is the northeastern part of Indiana typical of prosperity and energy, and Adams and Wells Counties are centers of "God's country," as the real Hoosier calls his home hunting grounds, his picturesque streams, his teeming fields and his hamlets, towns and cities.

It is this diverse, useful and interesting country and people which this history, now finished, has endeavored to depict. The counties, which so worthily perpetuate the names of a great statesman and a gallant soldier and Indian fighter, have put forth gallant soldiers of the later days, successful business men, women of culture, and numerous characters of both sexes whose strength and activity have been given to social, moral and religious development.

From the very outset, it was the earnest aim of editors and publishers to gather all material information bearing upon the multitude of topics which logically called for treatment and which the prospectus had promised. As a rule, the responses were prompt and hearty, although in scattered instances, and despite repeated requests, the facts obtained were not as full as desired. Without mentioning all who have thus promoted our enterprise, and co-operated in the lightening of our labors, the editors acknowledge their obligations to the advisory boards of both counties and to the editors of the newspapers, without exception. While it has been the constant aim of the editors to give all credit who have materially contributed to the upbuilding of any community or institution, the object has also been kept in mind of endeavoring to observe literary proportions in the amount of space accorded to the many topics considered. In the progress and completion of the work, we have endeavored to be impartial, as becomes all historians, whether writing of counties or of countries.

Although the United States refuses to be classed as a military nation, or even as a country given over to money-making, whenever its

people have been called upon to devote their energies and genius to either specialty, the advances made have astounded the world. At the outbreak of the Civil War the United States was only known for its triumphs in the paths of peace; when the conflict had been concluded military leaders of world-wide fame had been developed and the scientific military leaders of Europe were studying its masterly campaigns for original movements and tactics. It was America that planted the seeds for the dreadnaughts and submarines of the warlike world. The United States is now looming up as a young giant in the World's War—every man, woman and child, with the true American spirit, afire in mind and body.

Applying these truths to the small section of the Union covered by Adams and Wells counties, the records of their achievements in the Civil War and in the World's War of to-day stamp her people as Americans in every fiber. Such centers as Decatur, Bluffton and Ossian have always given lavishly of their best manhood and womanhood, and the sons and daughters of the young soldiers of the present will read with pride how their fathers bravely met all which they were called upon to endure with the same spirit which animated the soldiers of the Civil War.

The history of these counties will also illustrate the steadfastness of numerous foreign-born residents, both in the peaceful development of this section of Northeastern Indiana and in the contribution of their young men to the various departments of war service at present.

The uplifting, inspiring work of women has also been worthily pictured, and the one literary figure which is above all the rest is an earnest woman of domestic genius. In short, we venture to claim that there is material within the covers of this history to both interest and instruct those of all ages and both sexes; and every reasonable precaution has been taken to make the subject matter reliable and complete. With these general words of introduction the history of Adams and Wells Counties must speak, in detail, for itself.

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Adams and Wells Counties

CHAPTER I

MIXED RED AND WHITE HISTORY

THE MIAMIS AND THE FUR TRADE—THE FATHER OF LITTLE TURTLE—LITTLE TURTLE HIMSELF—AS A STATESMAN AND A MAN—LITTLE TURTLE'S DEATH—THE MIAMIS LEAVE FOR KANSAS—THE RIVARE INDIAN RESERVATION—THE POTTAWATOMIES—WAYNE'S CAMPAIGN OF 1794—THE OLD WAYNE TRACE—THE HARMAR TRAIL—THE GODFREY TRAIL, OR TRACE—STATE ROADS, SUCCESSORS OF TRAILS.

The country now included in Northwestern Ohio and Northeastern Indiana is traversed by the Maumee, St. Joseph, St. Mary's and the Wabash rivers, and in the trough along which pour the waters which all but join the Great Lakes with the Ohio Valley. It was foreordained by the forces of nature that this great system of waterways should determine the migrations of the races which battled for dominion over a large area of interior America for a period of more than two centuries. That cycle of history, not vast, as time goes, but great in events, covers the record stretching from the pioneer explorations of Marquette and Joliet in 1673 to the creation of the Northwest Territory in 1787. France, through these great and intrepid characters, made possible a Northwest and a greater America than was bounded by the Atlantic Coast and the Appalachian Mountains. In acknowledging their indebtedness to the splendid European republic, the people of America must never forget that far-reaching fact which antedates the French salvation of Revolutionary times by more than a century.

THE MIAMIS AND THE FUR TRADE

When the French reached the valley of the Wabash, the entire country now embraced within the State of Indiana was occupied by

A French Voyageur

the Miami Confederacy of Indians. But in blocking the western invasions of the fierce Iroquois they had been greatly decimated and their strength as a nation had declined. The rum and brandy introduced to them by the French traders had also contributed to their decline. The work of the traders, to a very large extent, counteracted the efforts of the missionaries among the Miamis, but even in the first portion of the eighteenth century they were of such commercial importance in the prosecution of the fur trade that the English commenced to cast covetous eyes at the business transacted with them through the villages and posts on the Maumee and the Wabash. One of the most flourishing centers of that trade was near the confluence of the St. Mary's and St. Joseph rivers, at the present site of Fort Wayne.

The Father of Little Turtle

The early history of the Miami Indians is veiled in tradition and obscurity, and little is known of the chiefs or head men prior to July 3, 1748. On that date a treaty of peace and friendship was concluded at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, between commissioners appointed by the English colonial authorities and the chiefs of several tribes in the interior. In that treaty the name A-gue-nack-gue appears as "principal chief of the Miamis," and it is said that he then lived at Turtle Village, a few miles northeast of the present City of Fort Wayne. Two other Miami chiefs from the Wabash country also signed that treaty, which lasted until the Government of the United States was established.

Little Turtle Himself

A-gue-nack-gue married a Mohican woman according to the Indian custom and one of their sons was Me-she-ke-no-quah, or Little Turtle, who became principal chief of the Miami Nation at the death of his father. Little Turtle was born at Turtle Village about 1747, and at the time he succeeded to the chieftaincy, his tribe was regarded as the leading one of the West. He was not lacking in any of the essential qualifications of a great chief. He has been described as "short in stature, well built, with symmetrical form, prominent forehead, heavy eyebrows, keen, black eyes and a large chin." From his mother he inherited many of the finer qualities of the Mohicans. Agile and athletic, his physical ability was not to be questioned for a moment. As a youth his influence was made manifest on more than one occasion,

even the older warriors listening with respect when he presented his views in council. After he became chief, not only of his own tribe, but of other tribes of the Miami Confederacy, he was acknowledged by all as their great leader, and they followed him without the slightest envy or jealousy. Wise in council, he was equally brave in battle. No military academy taught him the art of war, yet in the management of an army he showed the skill and strategy of a Napoleon. His prowess as a commander is seen in the masterly manner in which he handled his warriors in the defeat of General St. Clair. Not until he met General Anthony Wayne, whom he designated as "the man who never sleeps," did Little Turtle acknowledge defeat.

As a Statesman and a Man

As a statesman, Little Turtle was a conspicuous figure in the negotiations of several of the early treaties with the United States. Having once affixed his signature to a treaty, he considered it so much more than a scrap of paper that it never seemed to occur to him, savage though he might me, to violate the least of its provisions. The "culture" of the white man had not hardened his conscience or his manly honor. Thus he won the confidence and esteem of the whites, although many of his nation did not support him in this straightforwardness, and referred to him contemptuously as "an Indian with a white man's heart."

Little Turtle's Death

Washington, when president, presented Little Turtle with a medal and a handsome sword as tokens of personal and national regard. The last days of the upright chief were spent at Little Turtle Village. He was sorely afflicted with the gout, and a few months before his death went to Fort Wayne to consult a physician regarding his disease, but passed away on July 14, 1812, at his lodge in the Old Orchard not far from the confluence of the St. Joseph and St. Mary's rivers. Brice in his history of Fort Wayne says: "His body was borne to the grave with the highest honors by his great enemy, the white man. The muffled drum, the solemn march, the funeral salute, announced that a great soldier had fallen, and that even his enemies paid tribute to his memory." Deposited in the grave with him were the sword and medal presented to him by Washington, together with the Indian ornaments and implements of war customarily buried with the warriors of his race. Little Turtle was a credit to the bravery and mor-

ality of humanity; in his person were centered some of the best traits of both the red and the white races.

The Miamis Leave for Kansas

Chief Richardville, the successor of Little Turtle, was born at Fort Wayne, which was the scene of several important treaties with the tribes which were dominant in Indiana. After the return of the Miamis to Indiana, following the treaty of 1763, a number of new villages were established along the Wabash in what is now Allen, Huntington, Wabash and Miami counties. Prophetstown was the site of an ancient Miami village, but after it was destroyed by General Harrison in 1811 it was never rebuilt. In 1846, after several treaties, the Miamis were moved to their Kansas reservation.

The Rivare Indian Reservation

The old Rivare Indian Reservation, covering about 1,600 acres of land in Sections 15, 16, 21 and 22, St. Mary's Township, Adams county, is more than a century old. The tract was granted and reserved to the children of Cho-a-pin-a-mois, alias Antoine Rivard, a half-breed, at the treaty concluded at St. Mary's, Ohio, on the 6th of October, 1818, between the United States land commissioners and the chiefs and warriors of the Miami Nation. The Indian title to the reservation was extinguished partly by purchase and partly by an action at law in the Adams County Circuit Court (See Francis Comparete and John B. Boure vs. Cho-a-pin-a-mois, alias Antoine Rivard, son of Anthony Rivard; action brought in that court, October 14, 1837). On the 26th of the month named, the west half of the tract was platted into lots 1-8, inclusive, of about forty acres each, and on May 26, 1855, part of the east half was divided, also into eight lots, containing over forty-one acres each. Thus was the old Indian Reservation incorporated into the regular records of Adams County.

The Pottawatomies

The Pottawatomies, who shared with the Miamis the soil of Indiana when the French first came upon the scene were also of the Algonquin family. They were rather docile and always very friendly to the French. They joined Pontiac in the uprising of 1763, and at the beginning of the Revolution sided with the British and opposed the colonists. At the treaty of Greenville in 1795 they notified the Miami

Indians that it was the intention of their chiefs to move some of their people from the region around Southern Lake Michigan to the valley of the Wabash. To this the Miamis objected, claiming all of Northern Indiana by right of possession. But the Pottawatomies came into Northern and Northeastern Indiana, notwithstanding, and at the beginning of the nineteenth century claimed all the territory now within the state north of the Wabash River. Within that area they had about fifty villages. The Pottawatomies concluded more than forty treaties with the United States, the last important one being that of February, 1837, by which they ceded all their lands in Indiana to the United States and agreed to move to their Kansas reservation; and they actually left the state soon afterward. The Miamis had ceded any lands which they claimed within the same domain more than ten years previously. So that the white settlers of Adams County saw the red cloud upon their real estate completely lifted about a year after they organized a civil government.

Wayne's Campaign of 1794

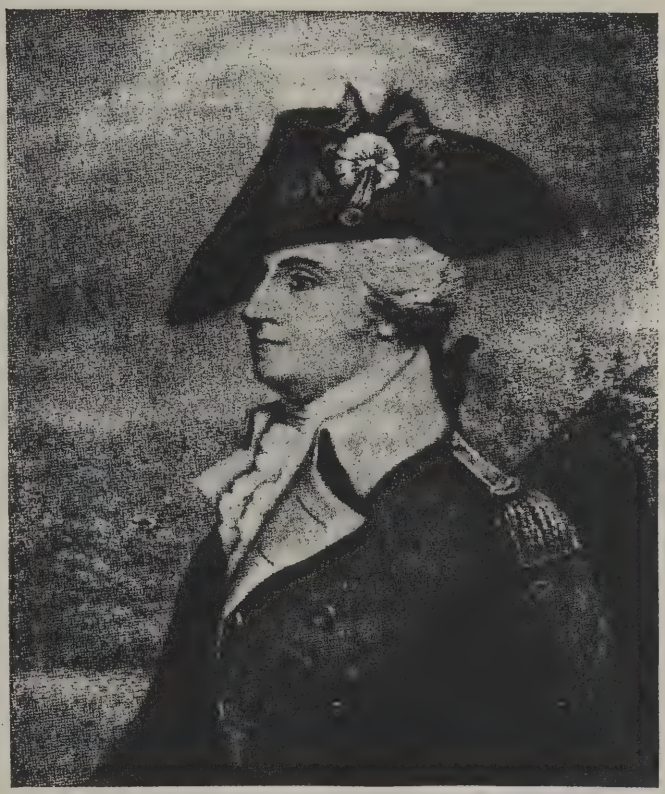
It was the Wayne campaign of 1794 which broke the power of the Miamis, the Pottawatomies and all the other tribes which were a menace to the progress of American civilization in the valleys of the Maumee and the Wabash. It was along the Indian trails then well beaten, and the military roads which were to be built as a result of the decisive operations of Mad Anthony, that the pioneer settlers were to come into Adams County. Wayne thoroughly avenged the defeat of St. Clair at Greenville, Western Ohio, in 1791. Little Turtle's triumph was to be short-lived.

General Wayne organized his forces at Pittsburgh, and in October, 1793, moved westward from that point at the head of 3,600 men. He proposed an offensive campaign. The Indians, instigated by the British, insisted that the Ohio River should be the boundary between their lands and the domain of the United States, and were convinced that they could maintain that line.

General Scott of Kentucky joined General Wayne with 1,600 mounted men, and erected Fort Defiance at the mouth of the Auglaize River. On August 15th the army moved toward the British fort near the rapids of the Maumee, where, on the morning of the 20th, they defeated 2,000 Indians and British almost within range of the guns of the fort. Of the 900 American troops actually engaged, thirty-three were killed and one hundred wounded, the enemy's loss being more than double. Wayne remained in that region for three days,

destroying villages and crops, and then returned to Fort Defiance, his course for many miles on either sides of the route being marked by a clean sweep of every vestige of Indian occupancy.

On September 14, 1794, General Wayne moved his army in the direction of the deserted Miami villages at the confluence of the St. Joseph and the St. Mary's, near Little Turtle's home. The American



Mad Anthony Wayne

commander arrived October 17th and on the following day selected the site of Fort Wayne. The fort was completed November 22nd, and garrisoned by a strong detachment of infantry and artillery commanded by Colonel John F. Hamtramck, who named it in honor of the intrepid Wayne. Soon afterward the latter concluded the Greenville treaty, which placed a stamp of permanency upon his military successes.

The Old Wayne Trace

The road, still known as "Wayne trace," was first an Indian trail, and after Mad Anthony's victory over the Indians the main-traveled route over which supplies went for the troops garrisoned at Fort Wayne until that military post was abandoned in 1819. It enters Adams County about a mile northwest of Willshire, Ohio, passes through the Rivare Reservation in St. Mary's Township, then through Washington and Root townships, via Monmouth, toward the north. Wayne's army is known to have passed through that portion of Adams County in August, 1794. The road thus traveled was made somewhat permanent at the time by the slow and laborious advance of the troops, caused by the vigilance of the Indians. The soldiers generally halted and pitched their tents about the middle of the afternoon and, the ground of the encampment having been previously marked out by the surveyor, each company fortified in front of its position by cutting down trees and erecting a breastwork, so that by dark a complete fortification enclosed the camp. The army entered the county at a point very little north of where the St. Mary's River passes from Ohio into Indiana, about a mile northwest of Willshire, Van Wert County, in the former state. It marched in a northwesterly direction through what is now known as the Rivare Reservation in St. Mary's Township, and then through Washington and Root townships, via Monmouth, into the present Allen County at a point where the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad leaves Adams County. After Wayne's victory over the Indians was won, the route of the army march became the main-traveled highway over which supplies were sent to the Fort Wayne troops.

The Wayne trace connected Fort Recovery with Fort Wayne, and in 1819 a colony of Quakers residing at Richmond, Wayne County, cut a road through the woods which ran from Winchester, Randolph County, and joined the Wayne trace in Adams County, near the mouth of Yellow Creek. Some of the first settlers of the county, as will become evident later, located on the old Wayne and Quaker traces. The Quaker trace was often called the Fort Recovery road.

The Harmar Trail

Perhaps an older military road was that located by General Harmar. It has been virtually abandoned. Formerly it angled in a southeasterly direction across the northeast corner of Union Township toward Shane's Crossing, Ohio, at which place Wayne's army crossed

the Harmar trail in the route from Fort Jefferson, south of Greenville, to what is now Fort Wayne.

The Godfrey Trail or Trace

The Godfrey trail, or trace, as stated in "Snow's History of Adams County," extended "from the Godfrey Reservation on the Salamonie River southwest of Balbest, in Jay County, to the north of the Loblolly, down the Limberlost Creek to the Wabash River, and down that river to Carington's Ford near the northwest corner of Section 22, Wabash Township; thence in a northeasterly direction to the eastern end of Thompson's Prairie, and on past Big Blue Creek east of Salem (Steele) to the Rivare Reservation north of St. Mary's River. This crossed the Flint Springs and Recovery trail between Alexander and Geneva. The Godfrey trail became a public highway. Several old residents state that they well remember seeing Indian families passing to and from their reservations along the Godfrey trace; that it was not unusual to see a squaw leading a pony well loaded with lodge poles, sheet-iron kettles, skins of animals and other trappings; that there were frequently several ponies passing along one after another at the same time; that some had as many as three or four children on one horse; that the Indian man seemed to have little to do but to follow along the trail with the dogs; that in the main these Indians were a very dirty, shaggy-looking set of people; some wore blankets and others were dressed partly in skins, with some white men's clothing; that some of the children and squaws had highly colored scarfs of yellow, red or blue cotton goods wrapped around their bodies over their clothing of skins; that the men were all armed with rifles, knives and tomahawks, and usually carried them wherever they went."

State Roads, Successors of Trails

Many of the Indian trails in the old Northwest were cleared and widened by the French traders that the crude highways might be made more accessible for their pack trains, and the same routes were further improved by the permanent settlers of a later period. At still a subsequent date, taking these easy routes as a general guide, the state laid out permanent highways in various sections of the commonwealth, and they were generally used by the emigrants who came to Adams County in the pioneer period of its settlement. An important section of the Winchester State Road extended through the

Limberlost region of southern Adams county, with Old Buffalo (Geneva) as one of its stations; northward to the Wabash River in what is now Section 17, and thence down the river in a northwesterly direction to Deem's Ford, east of the present city of Bluffton. At that point the road forked, one branch extending to Fort Wayne and the other down the valley of the Wabash to Huntington. The trunk line of the Winchester Road extended from Winchester directly north to Buffalo, crossed the Wabash River at what is now known as the Price Bridge, continued northward to the old Reynolds farm on the St. Mary's River and there intersected the Fort Wayne and Willshire Road. The latter was another military road that came from Willshire, Ohio, and passed through Decatur northward to Fort Wayne. The Winchester Road was constructed at a day (1833) when Randolph County (of which Winchester was the county seat) comprised both Adams and Allen counties, and when Fort Wayne was the only real village between its southern and its northern terminus.

The traces and roads mentioned, although minor highways were opened as the country developed, were the main routes which gave the easiest access to the reds and the pioneer whites who entered the territory now included in Adams County.

CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND PRIMAL INDUSTRIES

A Continental Water-Shed—Road-Building Materials—Soils of the County—Topography—The Loblolly Country—Famous Limberlost Region—Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter's Descriptions—Agriculture and Live Stock Organizations—The County Agents.

Before further steps are taken in the historic development of Adams County, it seems that clearness would be added to the narrative by presenting a chapter dealing with the physical and geographical features of the region. This includes the origin of some of the names which have been popularly applied to special sections of the county. After this subject has been fairly expanded, readers of long residence will perhaps have their memories jogged and re-enlightened, while those of later settlement and less thoroughly informed, should follow the narrative with clearer understanding and therefore with more interest.

A Continental Water-Shed

Adams County, comprising twelve townships, is twenty-four miles in length and fourteen in breadth, and consequently contains 336 square miles. The surface is nearly level or gently undulating, except near the rivers, where it is slightly broken. The controlling physical feature is its numerous streams, of which the Wabash and St. Mary's rivers are the most important. They present several striking coincidences. Each measured by its windings traverses the county for about twenty-five miles; is nearly 150 feet wide; intersects four townships, and flows from southeast to northwest. The Wabash, within the county, receives the waters of sixteen and the St. Mary's, of twenty-two affluents. Eventually, the waters of the Wabash reach the Gulf of Mexico. The St. Mary's, which rises in Ohio, flows through the northern part of Adams County—intersecting portions of St. Mary's, Washington, Root and Preble townships—

and terminates at Fort Wayne, where its union with the St. Joseph forms the Maumee. The latter empties into the head of Lake Erie and its waters therefore finally mingle with those of the St. Lawrence and the northern Atlantic. In Adams County some of the headwaters of two mighty water systems begin their diverging courses toward the north and the south. In Jefferson and Wabash townships branches of these two principal streams are very narrowly separated, and there is found the distinct watershed sloping toward the Gulf of Mexico and the valley of the St. Lawrence.

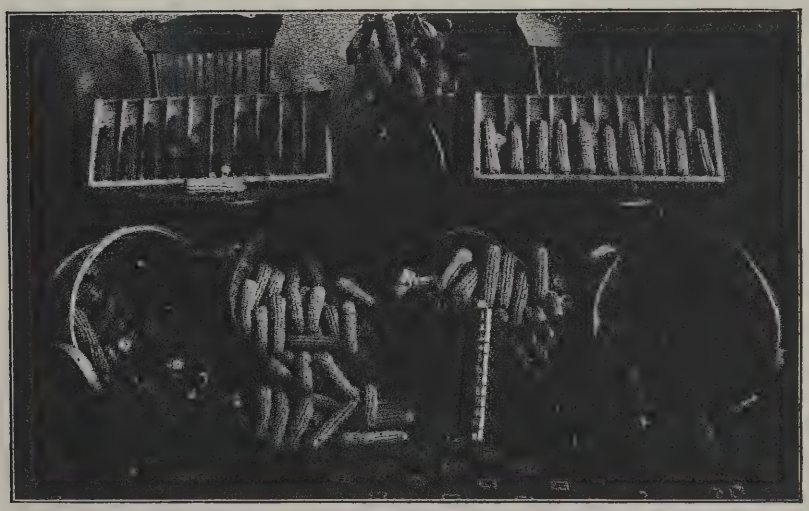
Road-Building Materials

A short distance from the right bank of each as you ascend the streams, are ridges largely composed of clay soil. Occasionally there are beds of gravel just above the rock, where the limestone abounds. These places are along the Wabash in Jefferson and Hartford townships; on Big Blue creek and along the St. Mary's in Washington and St. Mary's townships. Several good sand and gravel pits are found in the county, but some of them are nearly exhausted from the amount of road material used in building gravel roads before the macadamized road construction was commenced.

Soils of the County

Most of the county is underlaid with rock at a depth of from fifty to seventy-five feet, except perhaps the Loblolly region. The St. Mary's region is somewhat more undulating and the river has more current than that of the Wabash. The Wabash River bottoms are more nearly a black loam than those of the St. Mary's valley, except in Hartford and French townships where they overlay a deep ledge of limestone. Generally the land along the St. Mary's is a sandy loam. The uplands usually consist of a mixed clay and marl which will grow almost any cereal or other crop produced in the middle west.

The lands of Adams County may be thus described geologically: "The soil is clay overlying the silica and calcareous upper Silurian rocks of the Niagara group, in most cases the resulting soil being from two to ten feet deep. Although fertile, it is inclined to be tenacious, and the surface of the country being rather level the character of the land may be designated as frequently too retentious of moisture except in very dry weather." From the foregoing we can readily see the need of tiling, as have the actual cultivators of the soil. The result is that the lands which were once too wet for cultivation are



Corn and More Corn

drained and comprise some of the most valuable farms in the county.

"There is no worthless land in Adams county. From the particular topography and the richness of its soil and the advantages of water and drainage offered by its rivers and numerous smaller streams, it is well adapted to the various branches of agriculture. From the onion fields in the Yellow creek, Blue creek and Thompson's prairies its rich cornlands along the Wabash and St. Mary's rivers, and its other fertile and productive farms throughout the more elevated parts of the county, it may be placed in the front rank as one of the leading agricultural counties of the state."

Topography

Union and French townships, respectively in the northeastern and western parts of the county, are characterized by a number of ponds or sinks, which are small but from three to six feet in depth. French Township, especially just east of Vera Cruz, and Wabash Township, south of the river near Ceylon, present the most distinctively rolling land of any sections in the county. The largest prairie tracts, which were formerly undrained swamps, are as follows: Thompson's prairie, about five miles long and from half a mile to a mile and a half in width; Grim's prairie, some three miles in length; Blue Creek prairie, described as "a continuous chain of small, swamp prairies extending through Monroe and French townships, with here and there a sort of Beaver dam or small strip of land between them"; and Belt's and Yellow Creek prairies. The Blue Creek prairie was the last considerable portion of Adams County to be settled, as it comprised the last of the old swamp lands to be thoroughly drained. Even shortly before the Civil war it was known as the "wilds of Adams County."

The principal tributaries of the Wabash River are Indian Creek, Limberlost, Lick Run, Canoper Creek, and Dismal Run, in Wabash Township, and Six Mile Creek, Hartford Township; of St. Mary's River, Spring Run, Big Blue Creek, Twenty-seven Mile, Yellow Creek, Borum Run, Lenhart's Run, Numbers Creek, Seventeen and McKnight's Run. "In Adams County," says Snow's history, "the Saint Mary's carries about three times the volume of water that is carried by the Wabash. This is caused to a certain extent by the feeder from the reservoir in Ohio supplying water-power for the mills at St. Mary's.

The Loblolly Country

In the early settlement of Wabash and Hartford townships many beaver dams were found and some may yet be seen. Many years before the permanent white settlement, the French traders and trappers nearly swept the little animals from the country by slaughtering them for their furs. The otters also paid a heavy tribute. In what is now the southwestern part of Wabash Township and the southern sections of Hartford, there was almost a continuous series of beaver dams, which were specially centered in a shallow pond near Geneva and half a dozen small lakes seven or eight miles to the southwest. This region so thickly inhabited by the fur-bearing animals, especially the pond mentioned, has the general form of an oval, or the shape of the leaf of the swamp pine, the Loblolly. Sometimes the pond, at other times the entire region, is called the Loblolly. The pond was dredged about ten years ago and much of the adjacent land was reclaimed for agricultural purposes. A number of beaver dams are still to be seen in the Loblolly region of Wabash Township. Just west of Ceylon, on the south bank of the river, is one that required a six-foot cut through the bank to drain the pond above it, and on a tributary of the Canoper Creek which comes in from the north, near the center of section 15, is the largest beaver dam in the country, 100 yards in length and 5 or 6 feet in height.

Famous Limberlost Region

The Limberlost is the most widely known of the streams in Adams County which are tributary to the Wabash. Not a few of the residents of the county, including even some of the older generation have an idea that the name has something to do with the variation of the volume of water carried by the bed of the stream, and which has, at times, been almost "lost." But an authentic tale accounts for the name in this wise: A boy of about fifteen living near Fort Recovery had acquired the name of Limber Jim, because of his suppleness, and finally this was contracted to Limber. The boy was out in the woods one day and lost his way. A man on horseback saw him and called him. Lost Limber thought the man was an Indian and took to his heels. The mounted man finally ran him down and brought the boy to his friends. Not long afterward when the creek was discovered in the neighborhood and there was a question as to what it should be called, Lost Limber, who claimed to have seen it during his adventure

in the woods, suggested that it be named Limberlost. Although somewhat vain, the boy was popular, and his suggestion was adopted.

In the early times Limberlost Creek and the Limberlost region became widely known. Limberlost was also one of the first postoffices to be established in the county, giving place to Geneva with the coming of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad more than forty-five years ago. But the name was not to be lost, for Adams County's most distinguished author, Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter, laid the quaint scenes of "Freckles" and "A Girl of the Limberlost," in that unique region of the Wabash. All her stories are colorful and warm, but "Freckles," her first real romance, is richly laden with these charms of fiction. Though Freckles and the Angel are blocked out by the author as its chief characters, the reader finds himself charged with an ever-growing affection for the Bird Woman. Adams County is proud to have had the Bird Woman as a resident of Geneva and the Limberlost region for many years, and we believe that all will agree that her descriptions of that country, when it was among the "wilds" of the Middle West, enveloped by a weird and varied charm, are pictures of nature which have been surpassed by few American writers. With present-day drainage and the projection of good roads everywhere in the county, many of the old picturesque features of the Limberlost have been eliminated.

Freckles was a "timber guard." His boss, McLean, was the only son of a wealthy Scotch ship-builder, who had been "ordered through Southern Canada and Michigan to purchase a consignment of tall, straight timber for masts and down into Indiana for oak beams. The young man entered these mighty forests, parts of which still lay untouched since the dawn of the morning of time. The cool, clear, pungent atmosphere was intoxicating. The intense silence, like that of a great empty cathedral, fascinated him. He gradually learned that, to the shy wood creatures that darted across his path or peeped inquiringly from leafy ambush, he was a brother. He found himself approaching, with a feeling of reverence those majestic trees that had stood through ages of sun, wind and snow. Soon it became a difficult thing to fell them. When he had filled his order and returned home, he was amazed to find that in the swamps and forests he had lost his heart, and they were calling, forever calling him." Thus McLean was drawn to live in America and in the Limberlost, having founded a lumber company and a furniture factory in Michigan, and bought large tracts of hard-wood lands in that region. Freckles, the young orphan, was engaged to guard the valuable trees against the desperate timber thieves of the region. The great swamps were all new to him,

a Chicago outcome. "His heart stood still every time he saw the beautiful marsh-grass begin a sinuous waving against the play of the wind, as McLean had told him it would. He bolted a half-mile with his first boom of the bittern, and his hat lifted with every yelp of the sheitpoke.

"The first afternoon that he found his wires down and he was compelled to plunge knee deep into the black swamp-muck to restring them, he became so ill from fear and nervousness that he could scarcely control his shaking hand to do the work. With every step he felt that he would miss secure footing and be swallowed up in that clinging sea of blackness. In dumb agony he plunged along, clinging to the posts and trees until he had finished restringing and testing the wire. He had consumed much time. Night closed in. The Limberlost stirred gently, then shook herself, growled and awoke about him. There seemed to be a great owl hooting from every hollow tree and a little one screeching from every knot-hole. The bellowing of monster bull-frogs was not sufficiently deafening to shut out the wailing of whip-poor-wills that seemed to come from every bush. Night-hawks swept past him with their shivery cry and bats struck his face. A prowling wildcat missed its catch and screamed with rage. A lost fox bayed incessantly for its mate. * * * His heart seemed to be in his mouth when his first rattler disputed the trail with him, but he mustered courage and let drive at it with his club. After its head had been crushed, he mastered the Irishman's inborn repugnance to snakes sufficiently to cut off its rattles. With the mastery of his first snake, his greatest fear of them was gone. Then he began to realize that with the abundance of food in the swamp, flesh hunters would not come out on the trail and attack him; and he had his revolver for defense if they did. He soon learned to laugh at the big floppy birds that made horrible noises. One day, watching from behind a tree, he saw a crane solemnly performing a few measures of a belated nuptial song-and-dance with his mate. Realizing that it was intended in tenderness, no matter how it appeared, the lonely, starved heart of the boy went out to them in sympathy. When, day after day, the only thing that relieved his utter loneliness was the companionship of the birds and beasts of the swamp, it was the most natural thing in the world that Freckles should turn to them for friendship." And so he did, and so tamed all the wild birds of the swamp that they became known to his friends as Freckles' Chickens. That was the work of winter. "When the first breath of spring touched the Limberlost, and the snow receded from it; when the calkins began to bloom; when there came a hint of green to the trees, bushes and swale; when the rushes

lifted their heads, and the pulse of the newly resurrected season beat strong in the heart of nature, something new stirred in the breast of the boy. * * *

"About the bridge spanning Sleepy Snake Creek, the swale spread wide, the timber largely dropped away, and the willows, rushes, marsh-grass and splendid wild flowers grew abundantly. Here lazy, big, black water-snakes, for which the creek was named, sunned on the bushes, wild ducks and grebe chattered, cranes and herons fished, and musk-rats plowed the banks in queer, rolling furrows. Where the creek entered the swamp was a place of unusual beauty. The water spread out in darksome, mossy, green pools. Water-plants and lilies grew abundantly, throwing up great, rank, rich green leaves. Nowhere else in the Limberlost could be found a frog-chorus to equal that at the mouth of the creek. The drumming and piping went on in never-ending orchestral effect, and the full chorus rang to its accompaniment throughout the season."

Freckles made a wonderful garden in the Limberlost swamp, to which he retired for rest and to read about his beloved birds and animals and which he called the Cathedral. There the Angel first found him. But the Boss' gang commenced to cut away the trees for the Grand Rapids furniture factory, as they were instructed to do. One day Freckles said to the Angel: "The gang got there a little after noon and took out the tree, but I must tell you, and you must tell the Bird Woman, that there's no doubt but they will be coming back."

"Oh, what a shame!" cried the Angel. "They'll clear out roads, cut down the beautiful trees and tear up everything. They'll drive away the birds and spoil the Cathedral. When they have done their worst, then all these mills about here will follow in and take out the cheap timber. Then the land owners will dig a few ditches, build some fires, and in two summers more the Limberlost will be in corn and potatoes."

They looked at each other and groaned despairingly in unison.

"You like it, too," said Freckles.

"Yes," said the Angel, "I love it. Your room is a little piece right out of the heart of Fairyland, and the Cathedral is God's work, not yours. You only found it and opened the door after he had it completed. The birds, flowers and vines are all so lovely. The Bird Woman says it is really a fact that the mallows, foxfire, iris and lilies are larger and of richer coloring there than about the rest of the country. She says it is because of the rich loam and muck. I hate seeing the swamp torn up, and to you it will seem like losing your best friend; won't it?"

"Something like," said Freckles. "Still, I've the Limberlost in me heart, so that all of it will be real to me while I live, no matter what they do to it."

The Limberlost in autumn: "The Limberlost was now arrayed like the Queen of Sheba in all her glory. The first frosts of autumn had bejeweled her crown in flashing topaz, ruby and emerald. About her feet trailed the purple of her garments and in her hand was her golden scepter. Everything was at full tide. It seemed as if nothing could grow lovelier, and it was all standing still a few weeks, waiting coming destruction. The swamp was palpitant with life. Every pair of birds that had flocked to it in the spring was now multiplied by from two to ten. The young were tame from Freckles' tri-parenthood, and so plump and sleek that they were quite as beautiful as their elders, even if in many cases they lacked their brilliant plumage. It was the same story of increase everywhere. There were chubby little ground hogs scudding along the trail. There were cunning baby coons and opossums peeping from hollow logs and trees. Young muskrats followed their parents across the lagoons. If you could come across a family of foxes that had not yet disbanded, and see the young playing with a wild duck's carcass that their mother had brought, and note the pride and satisfaction in her eyes as she lay at one side guarding them, it would be a picture not to be forgotten. Freckles never tired of studying the devotion of a fox-mother to her babies. To him, whose early life had been so embittered by continual proof of neglect and cruelty in human parents toward their children, the love of these furred and feathered folk of the Limberlost was even more of a miracle than to the Bird Woman and the Angel. The Angel was wild about the baby rabbits and squirrels. She had carried several of the squirrel and bunny babies home, and had the conservatory littered with them. Her care of them was perfect. She was learning her natural history from nature, and was getting much healthful exercise. To her, they were the most interesting of all, but the Bird Woman preferred the birds, with a close second in the butterflies.

"Brown butterfly time had come. The outer edge of the swale was filled with milkweed and other plants beloved of them, and the air was golden with the flashing satin wings of the monarch, viceroy and argargynnis. They outnumbered those of any other color three to one.

"Among the birds, it really seemed as if the little yellow fellows were in the preponderance. At least, they were until the red-winged blackbirds and bobolinks, that had nested on the uplands, suddenly saw in the swamp the garden of the Lord and came swarming by hundreds

to feast and adventure upon it these last few weeks before migration. Never was there a finer feast spread for the birds. The grasses were filled with seeds; so too, were weeds of every variety. Fall berries were ripe. Wild grapes and black haws were ready. Bugs were creeping everywhere. The muck was yeasty with worms. Insects filled the air. Nature made glorious pause for holiday before her next change."

In these and other pictures, drawn by Gene Stratton-Porter, much of the natural history of the Limberlost region, as well as of Southern Adams County, is depicted. The expressed dread of Freckles and the Angel that Improvements would march over it and blot out all but the utilitarian has largely come to pass, but with many still living the old Limberlost is yet fresh in the heart and memory and, with the aid of the gifted author's pen, can never be completely effaced.

Agricultural and Live Stock Organizations

The first movement of the agriculturists of Adams County to organize themselves for mutual benefit, as well as social co-operation, was on the 28th of December, 1852, when the first County Agricultural Society was formed at Decatur, with Samuel S. Mickle, as president; George A. Dent, vice president; David Studabaker, secretary; John McConnell, treasurer, and William G. Spencer, librarian. At that time the chief efforts of the farmers appear to have been directed toward the improvement of the orchard products and the cattle, hogs and sheep of the county. The expenses of the organization were met by the membership fees of $1.00 and the license fees collected from circuses and other shows which exhibited on the grounds southeast of Decatur. The early fairs of the old society were successful and the enterprise made substantial progress until it struck the snag of Civil war times, when it was discontinued altogether. In 1875 the twenty-acre tract in the southeastern part of Decatur was leased to Emanuel Woods and others, who built a race track, fenced the grounds and erected the necessary buildings to revive the county fair on a more extended scale than it had been previously conducted.

The result was the formation of the second organization known as the Adams County Agricultural Association, with the following officers: Emanuel Woods, president; John W. Rout, secretary; Daniel Weldy, treasurer; John Rupright, Henry Fuelling, A. J. Teeple, Timothy Coffee and Richard Winans, directors. In September, 1875, the first fair was held on these improved grounds. But the association did not flourish, as its activities seemed to gradually be turned

more into the channel of horse-racing than an exposition of the county's resources in agricultural lines. The fairs of 1885 and 1886 were held by private enterprise, and about 1889 the last fair was held on the old grounds.

In the spring of 1900 the Decatur Driving Association was organized to meet the wishes of horsemen who, for many years, had so labored as to make the city one of the recognized live stock centers (in their line) in the country. Grounds were leased at what is now known as Steele's park, a race track completed and suitable buildings erected for stabling the horses. In October, 1901, a very successful three days' horse fair was held at the grounds prepared for it.

HOGS FATTENING FOR MARKET

At a meeting of the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association held at Monroe, on October 23, 1901, a committee was appointed, consisting of Jonathan Fleming, George W. Gladden and Lemuel Headington, to draft articles of association for another agricultural society and to report the same at the next November meeting. That was done and the committee then commenced to look around for fair grounds. The Board of County Commissioners refused to sell the old fair grounds, but an election for directors to conduct a county fair in 1903 was held through the agency of the Decatur Democrat. The following were selected: Frank Berger, Frank Gideon, Lewis Fruchte, Joshua Bright, Michael Miller, George Tricker, David Dailey, J. S. Beatty, Peter Ashbaucher, Jonas Neuenschwander, L. O. Bears, Mar-

tin H. Herr and Peter Kinney. The organization became known as the Adams County Fair Association, and in July, 1903, Willard Steele proposed to lease to the directors named his 115-acre farm just east of Decatur for a county fair; also agreeing that, under certain conditions, he would erect the necessary buildings to conduct the same. In the following September the Farmers' Fair was held near Steele, Blue Creek Township. The fair of 1904 was as well attended as the one named.

In June of 1904 the Adams County Horsemen's Association was organized with Willard Steele, Henry Kohn, Davis Dailey, August Bly, Sampson Pillars, James Bell, V. D. Bell, George W. Martz, J. H. Beatty, Calvin Teeters, M. L. Smith, Dan Beery, David Eckrote, John S. Peterson, S. W. Hale and J. B. Rice as directors. As stated in its by-laws, the purposes of the association were "to encourage the breeding, training and use of trotting, pacing and running horses." Its first officers were: Abe Boch, president; Elmer Johnson, secretary; J. M. Miller, treasurer; and J. B. Rice, S. W. Hale, Willard Steele, Dan Beery and J. S. Peterson, board of managers. The horse fairs and races held both in 1904 and 1905 drew a good attendance and commensurate receipts.

The Farmers' Institutes of Adams County have been in operation since 1897. They have from the first accomplished splendid work in educating the farmer, through both the non-resident instructors and local talent. The details of their activities are so familiar that it really seems superfluous to give space to them here. The farmer of today finds in them his best advisers, his most helpful friends and, altogether, his wisest mentor, in affairs agricultural, social and intellectual.

The Adams County Farmers' Institute was formally organized in July, 1901, and the officers selected were: George Tricker, president; Martin L. Smith, vice president; Thomas H. Harris, secretary and Rudolph H. Schugg, treasurer. The present management comprises: Charles E. Magley, president; J. O. Tricker, secretary-treasurer.

Of late years the farmer has also found a coworker for his best interests in the county agent, the official representative of the Federal Department of Agriculture. While representing Uncle Sam he is in thorough co-operation with the Farmers' Institutes of the county, and comes to them backed by the great machinery of the Nation as a worker specially trained to assist them. He is often a university graduate (as is the case with the present agent of Adams County), thoroughly versed in the latest development affecting the growth and pro-

tection of crops, the raising of live stock, and the later-day conservation of every vegetable and animal product of the farm. His activities have been well set forth in John F. Snow's "History of Educational Development."

The Great Northern Indiana Fair was organized in 1904, and its headquarters were at Steele Park. Several fairs were held there before the property was taken over by the Adams County Fair Association, since which the grounds have been greatly improved. They have been laid out into substantial drives and walks, beautiful flower beds, groups of ornamental shrubbery and artificial lakes. Electric lights and an abundance of pure city water add to the modern features of the park.

In December, 1904, the importance of the smaller varieties of live stock in the scheme of prosperity which blessed Adams County was recognized in the organization of the Adams County Poultry and Pet Stock Association.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL POLITICAL HISTORY

The American Northwest Founded—Authors of the Ordinance of 1787—Manasseh Cutler's Practical Participation—Clearing Indiana of Indians—St. Clair's Defeat—Changes in Civil Government—Evolution of Adams County—General Conditions in 1819.

There was both a French Northwest and an English Northwest before the civil territory northwest of the Ohio River was created by the Ordinance of 1787. The territory was far too vague when claimed by the French to be covered by any definite laws. The English were too busy consolidating their gains over the French, previous to the Revolutionary war, to attempt much in the way of civil administration.

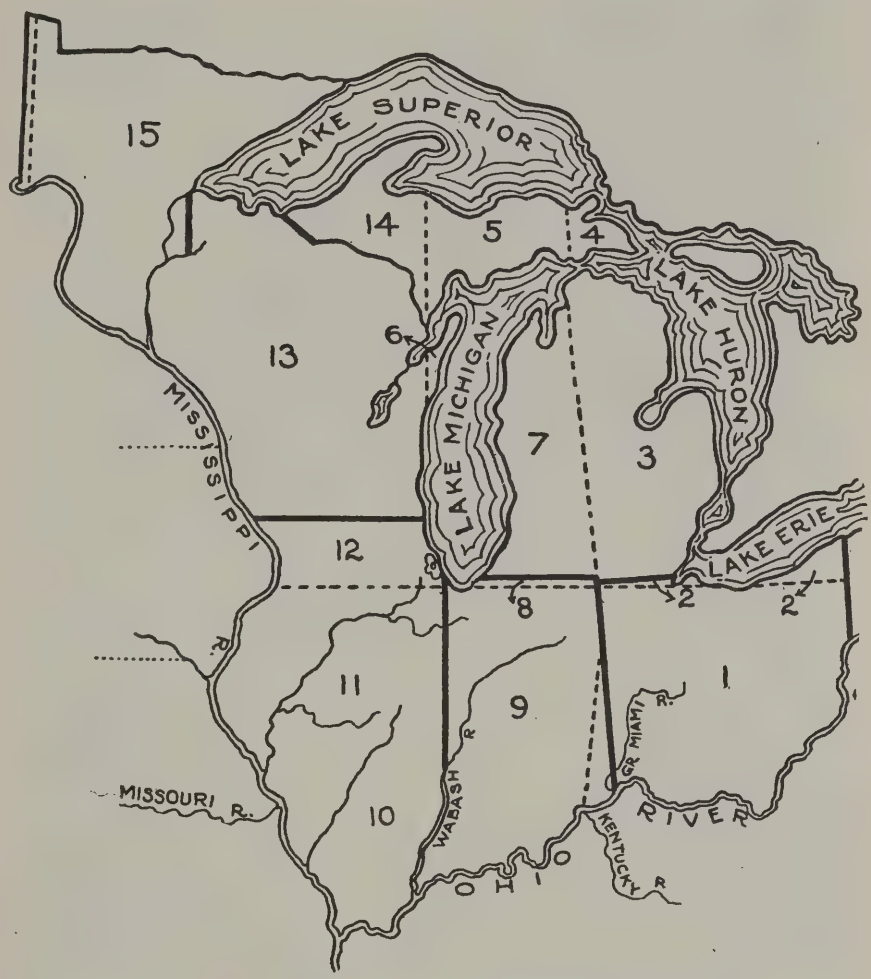
The American Northwest Founded

General Clark, by his capture of Vincennes in 1779, cleared the way for the founding of the American Northwest. Col. John Todd, who had already been appointed lieutenant for the County of Illinois, visited both Vincennes and Kaskaskia in the following spring, and established temporary courts at those points, headquarters of the French civilization of what was to be the Northwest Territory of the United States.

Authors of the Ordinance of 1787

Three years after Virginia had ceded to the General Government the territory which the commonwealth claimed by right of Clerk's conquest, Congress passed the famous Ordinance for the government of the Northwest Territory. The Ordinance of 1787 has an interesting history. Considerable controversy has arisen as to whom is entitled to the credit of farming it. The principles finally incorporated into the ordinance had been earnestly discussed by the leading statesmen and thinkers of the day, and represented the best sentiment of

the young republic. Jefferson himself had vainly endeavored to secure a system of government for the Northwest Territory excluding slavery from it forever. The southern members of Congress as a body were opposed to any such provision and had consistently voted



STATE DIVISIONS OF OLD NORTHWEST TERRITORY

against it. Undoubtedly Jefferson's views had much influence in the final framing of the Ordinance of 1787, but the weight of history now gives credit to the active consolidation and the actual composition of that great instrument to Nathan Dane, Rufus King and Manasseh Cutler.

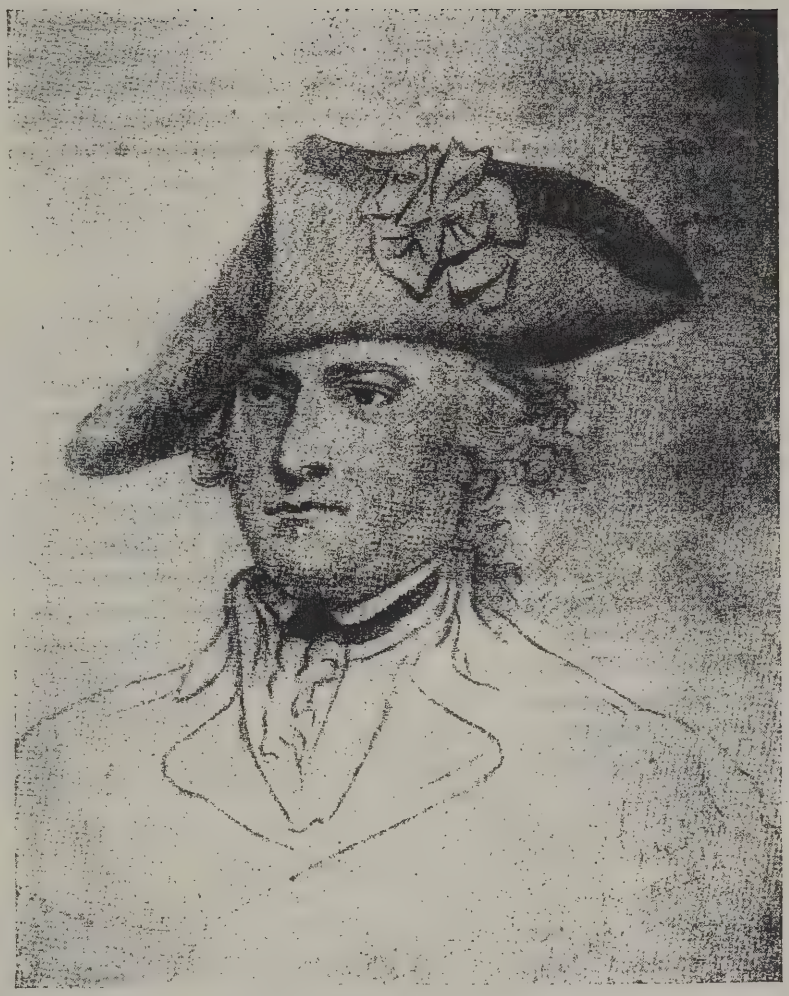
Manasseh Cutler's Practical Participation

Doctor Cutler's connection with the framing of the ordinance was perhaps more complicated than that of its other authors. In July, 1787, an organizing act for the Northwest Territory, without the anti-slavery clause, was before the Congress then sitting in New York. On the fifth of that month Doctor Cutler, of Massachusetts, came to the national capital as the accredited representative of an eastern company which wished to purchase and colonize 5,000,000 acres of land in the new Northwest. He was one of the most learned men in the country, a graduate of Yale who had taken the degrees in medicine, law and divinity, and a scientist second only to Franklin, whose fame had extended into Europe. Doctor Cutler was also a courtly, attractive gentleman, and a shrewd student of men and their practical affairs—one who could approach all classes with confidence and good effect. Jefferson and his administration, with the southern members of Congress, wished to make a record on the reduction of the public debt, and the fund to be raised from the sale of 5,000,000 acres of land would go far toward that end. The members of Congress from Massachusetts would not vote against the proposed land purchase, as many of their constituents were interested in the measure—and the Old Bay State was the leader of the North.

It thus came about that Doctor Cutler held the key to the situation and dictated the terms which resulted in the formation of those provisions in the Ordinance of 1787 excluding slavery forever from the Northwest Territory and donating one thirty-sixth of all public lands to the support of the common schools. He insisted firmly upon the adoption of these provisions, stating that unless the company could procure the lands under desirable conditions and surroundings they did not want them. The result was the passage of the ordinance, on the 13th of July, containing the provisions which have made that great measure most famous—those excluding slavery and donating public lands for the support of the schools. They consecrated the great states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin to freedom, intelligence and morality and, as commonwealths, they have never been back-sliders.

Clearing Indiana of Indians

But before the civil administration had been fairly inaugurated Governor St. Clair decided that something decisive must be done to chastise enemy Indians about the headwaters of the Wabash. After



Major General St. Clair

consultation with General Harmar at Fort Washington, in the fall of 1790, he sent an expedition of about 1,500 men under that commander. Another expedition had marched up the Wabash from Vincennes. General Harmar's men reached the Maumee and after campaigning against the Miamis for about a month returned to Fort Washington, with a loss of 183 soldiers killed and 31 wounded. The military venture among the Wabash savages in 1791, under General Scott, resulted in the destruction of some Indian villages, but a scarcity of even bad horses made it impossible to follow up the advantage. That was in the spring of 1791.

St. Clair's Defeat

During the summer the Secretary of War authorized Governor St. Clair himself to conduct a campaign of extermination, if necessary. In June, one of his commanders, General Wilkinson, made some progress along that line, and in September the governor took matters in his own hands. During that month he moved from Fort Washington with a force of 2,000 men and a number of pieces of artillery. On November 3d he reached the headquarters of the Wabash in Western Ohio, where Fort Recovery was afterward built by General Wayne, and there the army encamped. On the following morning its 1,400 effective men engaged the 1,200 Indians under Little Turtle, and were disastrously defeated. The American loss was 39 officers and 539 men killed and missing, and 22 officers and 232 men wounded.

St. Clair resigned his commission as major general and was succeeded by Anthony Wayne, who, two years later, avenged the governor's defeat by crushing the dangerous Indians of Indiana beyond revival.

Changes in Civil Government

As has already been noted the routes taken by the unfortunate Harmar expedition through Adams County against the defiant Miamis of the Wabash County, and the whirlwind and triumphant campaigns of Wayne over the same region, were subsequently defined as the Harmar and Wayne trails, traces or roads. The treaty of peace concluded at Greenville, or Fort Recovery, brought quiet to the regions along the Wabash and the Maumee, with all the adjacent areas, and in 1800 Congress organized the Territory of Indiana, with the civil seat of government fixed at Vincennes. The first Territorial Legislature convened in March of the following year.

Indiana acquired its present limits in 1809, when the Territory of Illinois was erected, to comprise all that part of its former domain west of the Wabash River and a line drawn from that river at the longitude of Vincennes due north to the international line between the United States and Canada. In April, 1816, the President approved the Congressional bill creating the State of Indiana, and its first General Assembly met at Corydon in November of that year.

Evolution of Adams County

When Indiana was admitted into the Union as a state it comprised the counties of Wayne, Franklin, Dearborn, Switzerland, Jefferson, Clark, Washington, Harrison, Knox, Gibson, Posey, Warrick and Perry. Thirty counties were subsequently carved from Knox, the territory of which included what is now Adams. From 1818 to 1823 Randolph County embraced it. When Allen County was organized in the latter year, the present Adams County formed a portion of it. From 1823 to 1836 the territory within the present limits of Adams County was a part of Allen. It became an independent civil body by the Legislative organic act which was approved by the governor January 23, 1836.

General Conditions in 1819

At the time of its civil organization, the county had enjoyed a progressive settlement for a period of seventeen years, but there were only a very few people within its limits. The commencement of this era of pioneer settlement marked a distinct line in the development of Indiana as a state. It had been graduated from the territorial form but three years. At Tippecanoe, eight years before, Harrison had completed the work of Wayne, and the Indian power was forever broken in Indiana. A popular system of education had been born three years before, through the provision of the enabling act of 1816, granting to the inhabitants of each Congressional township Section 16 for the use of the schools. These lands were sold and the proceeds thereof form the Congressional school fund, which is apportioned by the state to each county. This money is loaned out under the direction of the auditor of each county on first mortgage securities and the income thus derived is used for the maintenance of the common schools. Of course, these common school funds which really dated back to the Ordinance of 1787 were, in 1819, credited to Randolph County. When the cabin of the first white man to settle in what is

now Adams County was completed on Blue Creek, the treaty held at St. Mary's, Ohio, was only a few months old. Its proceedings covered the period October 2-6, 1818, and by the terms of that agreement a large tract of land was ceded to the National Government by the Miami Indian Nation. It extended across the center of Indiana and included virtually all of the Adams County of today. The Rivare Indian Reservation, in the present Township of St. Mary's, was granted on the last day of the treaty proceedings to the children of Antoine Rivard, as described more particularly in another place. The year 1819 further marked the abandonment of Fort Wayne as a military post, the national authorities having decided that there was no possible danger from Indian depredations which could not be effectually met by home forces. In other words the commencement of the permanent period of settlement in Adams County indicated the dawn of an era of security and substantial development which was widespread and generally recognized.

CHAPTER IV

REAL PERIOD OF PIONEERING

Coming of First Actual Settlers—Thompson, of Thompson's Prairie—First Out-and-Out Landlord—First Surveys and Land Entries—The Reynolds Farm and Inn—Samuel L. Rugg—First to Settle in the North—Studabaker-Simison-McDowell Colony—The Studabakers and Simisons—Simison's Bear Story—Col. William Vance—The Martins and Deffenbaughs Enter the Limberlost Region—First Drowning in the Limberlost—'Squire Martin Puts on Style—The Judays, McDaniels and Eleys—John H. Fuelling—The Elzeys of Root Township—Settled Near and at Decatur—Andrew Daugherty and His $1.50 Residence—George A. and Byron H. Dent—First Town of Adams County—The Bonds that Bind the Hoosiers—Early Fourth of July Celebrations—The True Veterans of Adams County—Patriotic Gatherings—Old Settlers' Meetings Revived—The Oldest Twins in the United States.

From the time that Henry Lowe built his cabin at the head of Thompson's Prairie, in Blue Creek Township, until the county was organized as a civil body, represents the real period of pioneering in that section of the state. In fact, so few entered its territory within that era that they are nearly all known by name, and their goings and comings have been described quite in detail. It was not until 1832 when 1,100 Indians—the bulk of the remaining Miamis and Pottawatomies in the state—were moved to their Kansas Reservations from the Valley of the Wabash and the headquarters of the St. Mary's River near the town by that name in Ohio, that the Red Men were considered "out of it." Although the latter did not formally relinquish their title until 1837, for all practical purposes—that is, as any material impediment to the coming of white settlers—they were a negligible quantity after 1832. Being thus convinced, pioneers who had already selected their homes commenced to improve the main roads coming from such older towns as Fort Wayne to the north and Win-

chester to the south, so that immigration was encouraged and actually stimulated.

Coming of First Actual Settlers

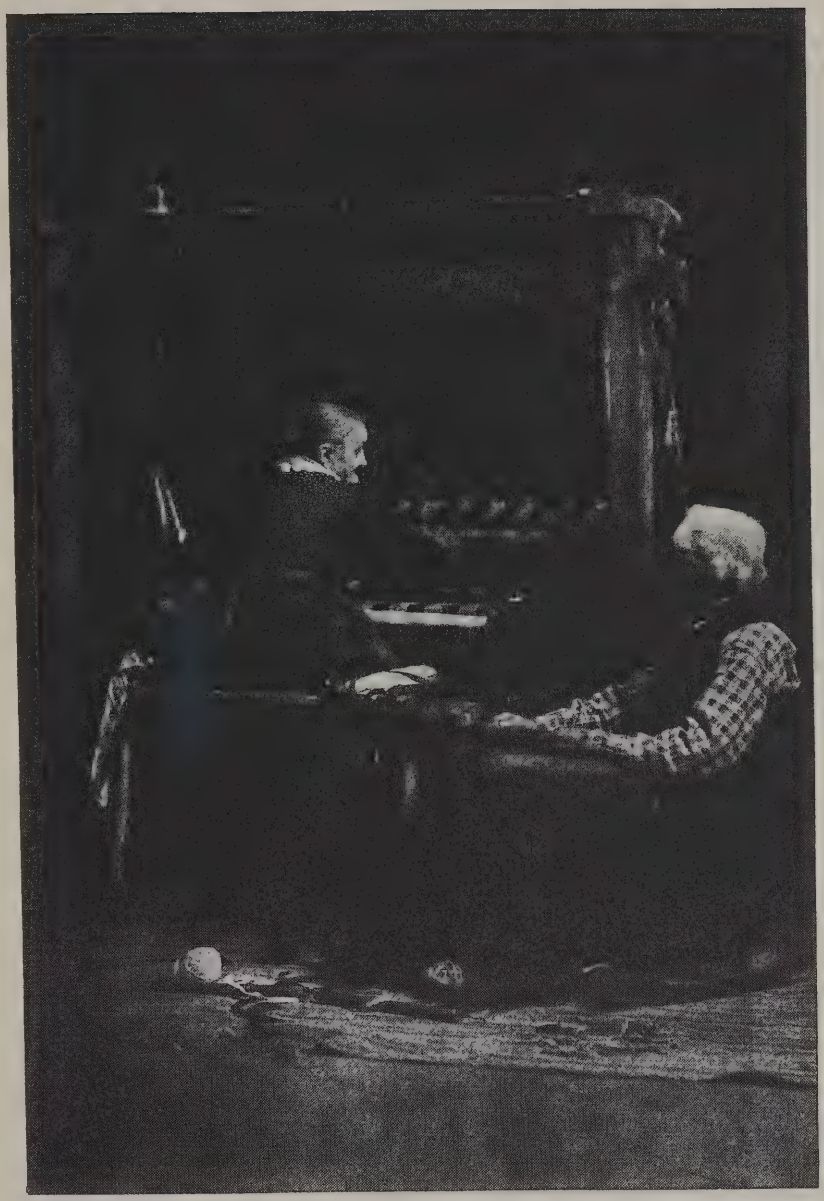
But first as to the few leading pioneers who came into the country during the years of famine—considered from the standpoint of settlement. In 1819 Henry Lowe, the first settler of Adams County, located on the old Godfrey trace, at the head of the east end of Thompson's Prairie. His location is otherwise described as in section 29, Blue Creek Township, "on or near what has been known as the Pruden farm."

In the following year (1820) Robert Douglas, finding about an acre of cleared land at the Springs on St. Mary's River, in what is now section 20, Root Township, decided to make that locality his stopping place. His land formerly comprised one of Wayne's military camps and was also a part of the Reynolds farm. Mr. Douglas added a few acres to the old clearing, built the second cabin in Adams County, and in the summer of 1820 raised a crop of corn upon his little farm. But he soon tired of this country life and moved northward to the hamlet of Fort Wayne, which had been abandoned during the previous year as a military post and was now busy growing as a village. From Fort Wayne he moved to Peru and there died.

It appears, also, that Mr. Lowe was an uneasy settler, for he disappeared in 1820, and his place was taken by one William Robinson. Mr. Robinson resided two years in Blue Creek Township and in 1822 returned to his old home in Greenville, Ohio.

Thompson, of Thompson's Prairie

Thompson's Prairie, in the southern part of Blue Creek Township, was yet to be named. In 1822 a "man whose name was Thompson" settled in that locality and lived there about ten years. He succeeded Robinson on the old Rowe place and there opened his cabin as a sort of inn for anyone traveling through those parts. Without any formal christening, the prairie on which his popular house of entertainment stood, took the name of the proprietor; and Thompson's Prairie it has remained. Mr. Thompson died in 1831, the first of the settlers to pass away in Adams County, although probably not the first white to die within its bounds. It is said that six of Wayne's soldiers, who died while returning from the fort in 1794, are buried in the Shaffer graveyard southeast of where the Town of Rivare (Bobo postoffice) is situated.



A Contented Old-Time Couple

First Out-and-Out Landlord

A Mr. Ayers, in 1821, also settled in St. Mary's Township. He located on the old Wayne trace, where it crossed Twenty-four Mile Creek, and his place was subsequently known as the Acker and Shaffer farms. It was rumored that the gentleman had, in years gone by, deserted from the British army, which did not make him any the less popular with the good Americans of Adams County among whom he settled. Mr. Ayers made a regular business of furnishing meals and lodgings, and is generally considered the first out-and-out landlord of the county.

When mention is made of "a Mr. Green," who became a neighbor of the Ayers family near the St. Mary's River, the list has been completed of all those who are known to have settled within the present limits of Adams County previous to 1826. In that year, therefore, there were four log cabins within the 336 square miles comprising that section of Indiana.

First Surveys and Land Entries

In 1820 Capt. James Riley had commenced his settlement at Willshire, Ohio, near the state line; in a few years the town had spread nearly to Indiana, and had been regularly platted. He was one of the Government surveyors, who, in 1822-23, laid out Root Township, Allen County (now Adams County) into sections. The surveyors, thus engaged, camped in the woods and had their provisions brought to them on pack horses, generally over the Wayne trace. Fort Wayne and Willshire were laid out at about the same time.

The Reynolds Farm and Inn

In 1824 the first land entry made in Adams County was recorded by Benjamin Kerchaville and comprised a fraction more than five acres above the Rivare reservation. The next was made by Benjamin Bentley and comprised part of what is known as the Reynolds Farm, including the improvements made by Douglas. The third entry to be recorded was by John Ross, December 20; 1829, at the mouth of Blue Creek, although in the preceding year Joshua Lister had settled near the Wayne trace northwest of the present Town of Monmouth, in Root Township.

Mr. Bentley, who entered the second piece of land, was one of the Government surveyors. After thus securing it, he returned to his

home in Chillicothe, Ohio, and sold the tract to John Reynolds, who, in 1831 came to reside on it. The tract was located on the old Wayne road near the St. Mary's River below the present City of Decatur. It was on the main thoroughfare between Southwestern Ohio and Northeastern Indiana, between the Ohio and the Maumee rivers, and, in those days, was one of the grand trunk lines of travel in the Northwest. As Mr. Reynolds was a man of kind heart, excellent character and much enterprise, his house became a popular stopping place for travelers and assumed the character of a homelike and popular tavern. As man and landlord he became widely known, took a prominent part in the organization of the county and died in Decatur, of which he was one of the proprietors, in 1844. Mr. Ross outlived most of the early settlers of the country, dying in the late '60s on the homestead which he had founded at the mouth of Blue Creek in 1829.

Samuel L. Rugg

In 1832 Samuel L. Rugg, a late arrival, became interested with Mr. Reynolds in the promotion of a town which was to be a possible county seat. In the following year he also started the movement to organize a new township "up the St. Mary's River." Mr. Rugg headed a petition for that purpose which was presented to the Board of Commissioners of Allen County. The prayer was granted and the leader was allowed to name the new township. An incident happened at the session during which his petition was received which was the deciding factor in the matter. In the course of the meeting, one of those present read from a newspaper an account of the celebration which marked the completion of the Erie Canal. Being called upon for a toast, Governor Root was represented as having proposed the following: "The military of the country—may they never want." He then stammered and well nigh broke down. The self-possessed DeWitt Clinton, who was standing by, nudged the embarrassed speaker and added, in a whisper, "and may they never be wanted." Governor Root caught at the words and repeated "and may they never be wanted," his brilliant conclusion bringing rounds of applause. Although Clinton had "saved Root's face," the governor was a great favorite, and Mr. Rugg's suggestion that the new township be named in his honor was unanimously adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Soon after the organization of the township in 1833, the first election ever held in what is now Adams County occurred at the house of Jeremiah Roe for the selection of a justice of the peace. The candidates were Esaias Dailey and Mr. Rugg, and the latter was elected.

In the same year occurred an event of importance to the progress of the southern part of Allen County—that is, the laying out, as a permanent pike, of the road from Winchester, Randolph County, to Fort Wayne, the county seat of Allen.

First to Settle in the North

Joseph Mann was one of the first to settle in what is now the northern part of Adams County, locating in the present Preble Township near the route afterward selected of the Winchester Road. He came in 1830 and resided in the locality for many years.

The year which marked the coming of Mr. Reynolds (1831) recorded the death of Mr. Thompson, of Thompson's Prairie, one of the owners of the tract first settled in Adams County. He was buried at his former home in Greenville, Ohio. Mr. Thompson's widow afterward married a man named Baze, but her brothers, Daniel and David Miller, had previously come to reside with her, and themselves joined the ranks of the wedded. These three were the only families in the southern half of the county until 1834.

Studabaker-Simison-McDowell Colony

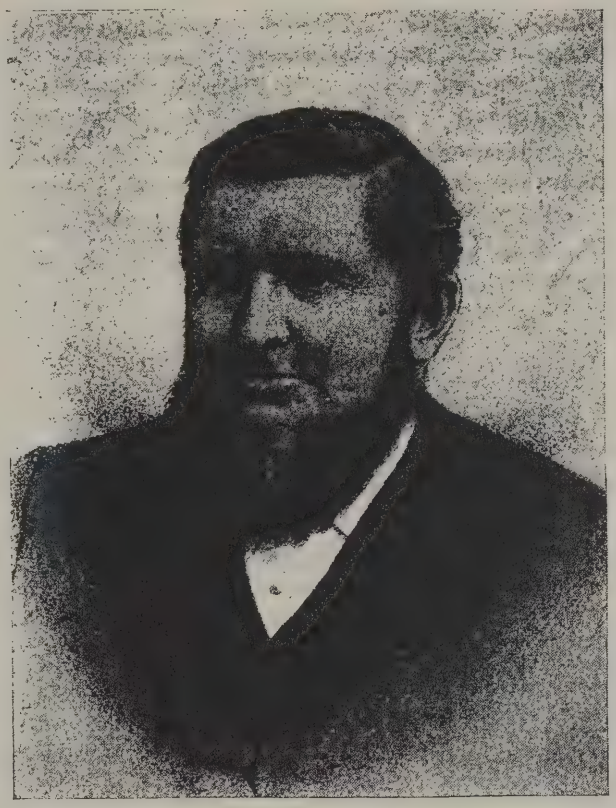
In the preceding year, however, two single young men, of great force of character, appeared in the Limberlost region. They were Robert Simison and Peter Studabaker. They both came from the neighborhood of Greenville and Fort Recovery, Ohio, in November, 1833. At that time there was not a settler in what is now Wabash Township, and not even the Winchester road was completed. The entire party, who were two days making the trip, comprised Peter Studabaker and Robert Simison, with the latter's younger brother, Irwin, and John McDowell. They crossed the Wabash at the confluence of the Limberlost and Loblolly, and upon arriving at the end of their journey set about making a cabin. Robert cut the logs, his brother and McDowell laid them, and Studabaker hauled them. The Studabaker-Simison-McDowell colony arrived in time to witness the wonderful display of meteors, or "shooting stars," which so awed or alarmed multitudes of Americans in 1833.

The Studabakers and Simisons

After the cabin was erected Mr. Studabaker returned to Fort Recovery for his family, intending to bring his household within a few

days, but a series of freshets delayed his coming until spring, and Robert Simison spent the late fall and winter alone, but not idle.

During these long winter months Mr. Simison was engaged in splitting rails, cutting wood and clearing land, and, in order to keep the larder in operation, was obliged to put in some of his time in hunting game. After Studabaker's return with his family, Simison



PETER STUDABAKER

went back to Ohio to work and replenish his cash box. As it happened, he had a good reason for doing this, as he married in November, 1836, and rejoined Studabaker in Wabash Township. He and his young wife remained with the Studabakers until he had erected a cabin on his claim in Hartford Township. As soon as spring fairly opened he cleared about three acres and planted the land to corn, and in the following year added an orchard to his improvements.

In 1840 Mr. Studabaker died at his homestead in Wabash Town-

ship, but Mr. Simison lived nearly seventy years longer, reaching a remarkable age—approaching, as he did, the century mark. Like not a few of the early settlers, he and his good wife, whom he married in Wells County, reared a large family. Their first home was a log cabin nineteen feet square, with puncheon floor, and, his ingenuity spurred on by necessity, not a nail was used in its construction. When he first settled his land was heavily timbered, and the wolves were his closest neighbors. After living in the log house for several years the father built a frame building, which the family occupied until 1874, when another and larger residence was erected. Mr. Simison was the owner of the town site of Buena Vista, which he platted in 1856, the sale of lots beginning on New Year's day of 1857. He always took an active interest in the public affairs of his township and county, and preserved his mental faculties in remarkable strength and clearness. Mr. Simison passed the later years of his life at the home of one of his sons in Bluffton.

Simison's Bear Story

As is often the case with those who reach a ripe age, Mr. Simison's recollections were most vivid for that period which covered his earlier experiences, and his stories were well worth listening to and repeating. All the pioneers of his time and country had their tales of Bruin, especially illustrative of his troublesome, as well as unique disposition. Among all the wild animals, it was the bears which made the most inroads upon the finest of the porkers. Mr. Simison used to tell a very illustrative tale in this connection. He had borrowed a neighbor's horses, had returned them and was on his way home afoot. Upon arriving near his own clearing, he came upon several of his hogs, bearing toward him, squealing and grunting their disapproval of some hidden disturbance. Soon a large bear appeared close behind them, coming along with his usual awkward lope. He was so close to one of the porkers that he seemed about to reach out with his paws and take it in, but, spying the human being, the bear stopped short. Mr. Simison was standing on the end of a log perfectly quiet. Old hunters say that a bear will seldom attack a man under such circumstances, and Simison always insisted that the truth of that assertion was never more sorely tested and conclusively proven. First, the bear looked in an inquiring way at the rigid and mysterious figure of Mr. S., then the animal's longing gaze followed the retreating and squealing hogs, again Bruin considered the figure of the weird man on the log, and finally turned his rollicking stump of a tail and rolled

off toward the Wabash. Simison ran to his house to get his gun and give chase; returned and followed the bear's trail to the river, and then saw Bruin on the other side of the Wabash, up stream, loping across country after some other settler's hogs who was not given to "posing."

Col. William Vance

In 1833-34, in addition to those mentioned, the following became permanent residents of the territory afterward incorporated as Adams County: Ezekiel Hooper, James Niblack, Benjamin F. Gorsline, John S. Rhea, Enos W. Butler, Samuel Smith, Marvin R. Gorsline, Benjamin Pillars, Eli Zimmerman and William Lewis.

Col. William Vance came in the Spring of 1885 and settled on section 18, Wabash Township. He was widely known in Eastern Indiana and served three terms in the General Assembly of the state as a representative of Adams, Wells, Huntington, Jay and Blackford. A child of Colonel Vance died in the spring of 1835, soon after the family settled in Wabash Township, and this death was the first in the extreme southern part of the county. The Vances, Simisons and Studabakers virtually monopolized that section of the county for several years.

The Martins and Deffenbaughs Enter the Limberlost Region

Joseph Martin and John Deffenbaugh spent several weeks traveling from Piqua, Ohio, to Adams County. They finally found locations which were satisfactory along the Wabash River near what is now Hartford Township, and started for Fort Wayne on horseback to make their entries at the land office. On their homeward trip they went down the Maumee River by way of the old Indian trace as far as the juncture of the Auglaize, up that stream to Fort Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio, and thence to Upper Sandusky, then a Wyandotte Indian town. Garrett, a white man, had married an Indian girl at that point and kept a tavern there. The return trip of the Martin and Deffenbaugh families to the Limberlost region was made in thirteen days. Six horses and two wagons drew the families with their household effects and, besides the men of the families, two hired hands were employed in cutting the road free of underbrush and small trees when it was impossible otherwise to advance through the country.

First Drowning in the Limberlost

Much difficulty was also experienced by those who entered the southern portions of the county for purposes of settlement on account of the numerous streams, many of which, at high water, were not fordable. The most common way of getting across them was to build a sort of pontoon bridge. A tree was selected near the bank and felled so that it reached the opposite bank; another was thrown across the stream not far away and as near parallel to the first as possible. The two trees were then covered with puncheons and pinned together, thus making quite a substantial bridge. Not a few of them, planned to be only temporary, were so well built as to last for years. Accidents sometimes happened in crossing them when the water was high. David Studabaker related an instance wherein a boy was drowned. The father and son had been to mill, a trip of that kind sometimes taking from four to six days. While they were away the water raised and the placid little Limberlost became a raging torrent, bearing swiftly in its current trees, logs and debris of every description. To reach the half submerged bridge, father and son were obliged to swim their horses. The man led, but had scarcely reached the center of the foaming stream when he heard a scream and, turning, saw both boy and horse carried under. Powerless to be of any assistance, the father struggled to the opposite shore, hurried to the residence of Peter Studabaker, who organized a squad of neighbors and, after the waters of the Limberlost had somewhat subsided, the men succeeded in finding the body of the unfortunate lad. The accident occurred July 4, 1834.

Squire Martin Puts on Style

When Martin and Deffenbaugh arrived at their entries they built a double half-faced camp and lived therein until each completed his cabin. The former built his mud and stick chimney above the roof. This was unheard-of grandeur, the settlers seldom building them higher than six feet. Studabaker, Vance and the others who had assisted in the raising, when they realized what Martin had done insisted that he "must treat all 'round" for putting on so much style.

The Judays, McDaniels and Eleys

Henry S. Juday, who settled on the northwest quarter of section 28, Wabash Township, was of an old Virginia family, the members of

which moved into Preble and Darke counties, Ohio, in the early part of the nineteenth century. Mr. Juday's father died in the latter county at the age of more than one hundred years. He himself resided on his Wabash Township farm until 1864, when he moved to Fulton County, Illinois, where he died in 1867. Andrew J. Juday, a son, was born on the Indian homestead and became one of the early merchants of Geneva.

Perry McDaniel settled in the woods in the eastern part of Blue Creek Township on the eighty acres which he entered at Fort Wayne. As he came with a family, he built a cabin before he did any clearing for a farm. Mr. McDaniel remained in the county until his death in May, 1850. His son, by the same name, who lived for years upon his farm in the western part of the same township, was an infant of only a few months when the family first came from Greene County, Ohio.

Michael Eley headed one of the pioneer families of Monroe Township. His son, David Eley, became a law student at Decatur and in the early '80s represented Adams and Jay counties in the Legislature.

John H. Fuelling

The Fuelling family, of which John H. was the eldest among the children, settled in a clearing around Seventeen-mile Pond in Root Township. The father had entered 120 acres of land at Fort Wayne and with John H. Fuelling, the youth of sixteen, set out to establish a homestead in that locality. While the home cabin was being built the family stopped with John H. Wise, who was their nearest neighbor. There were no neighbors immediately north of them, but soon after their arrival immigrants commenced to locate around them. The father of the family died in Root Township in December, 1854, and the mother more than twenty years afterward. They were both earnest Lutherans. John H. Fuelling raised a large family in Root Township and became one of the most prosperous farmers of the county, owning and cultivating large farms both in Root and Jefferson townships.

Reuben Lord was also a settler of Root Township, and left numerous descendants.

Sampson Rice, still another Root Township pioneer, resided for twelve years in that part of the county. He died in January, 1848, and his son, Benjamin Rice, lived for many years on his farm in section 21 near the present site of Monmouth.

The Elzeys of Root Township

Elisha V. Elzey was a representative of one of those stanch Ohio families of southern blood which formed such a large portion of the pioneer element which started Adams County on the upward road. His father was a native of Delaware who was reared in Maryland, and his first wife was born in that state. Elisha was twenty-one years of age when he came to Adams County with his parents, three brothers and three sisters. The family came from Clinton County, Ohio, and the father proceeded to take possession of section 31, in the southwestern corner of Root Township, which he had entered at the Government land office at Fort Wayne in May, 1836. Four big wagons and nine horses brought the sizable Elzey family to Adams County. Its father eventually divided the section among his children, keeping 280 acres for himself. The son, Elisha V., soon had a log cabin completed on his "eighty," and in the following winter returned to Ohio and married. In a short time he had started on his wedding trip through the Ohio and Indiana wilds to the little log house in Root Township. He lived at that locality for more than forty years, bringing three wives to the old homestead, which, as the years passed, was improved into a substantial estate and blessed with numerous children. Mr. Elzey moved to Decatur in 1880 and in that city he married his fourth wife, when he was sixty-seven years of age. When he came to the county with his father to occupy his "eighty" in section 31, Root Township, there was no Decatur. Its first house was built in the following October and a surveyor named Jacob Hoffer lived in it.

Settled Near and at Decatur

Robert Drummond was a Pennsylvanian who was reared in Ohio and lived on his farm in Root Township until his death in 1874, a period of thirty-eight years. His son, William D., moved to Decatur where he engaged in the lumber business.

When Enos Mann settled in what is now Washington Township, in 1836, his son, Justin C., was fifteen years of age. A decade later the latter married the widow of John Reynolds, a farmer of Root Township, and not long afterward settled on a farm which was subsequently absorbed by the City of Decatur. In 1858 he removed to a farm in Washington Township, adjoining Decatur, where he died in the spring of 1884.

Andrew Daugherty and His $1.50 Residence

Andrew Daugherty was of Irish blood, his grandfather having been born in the Emerald Isle. The story runs that the latter and his three brothers were kidnapped from the coast of Ireland, in 1738, brought to America, and sold for their passage money. Mr. Daugherty's parents were both natives of Delaware. He himself was a West Virginian who was taken to Fairfield County, Ohio, when he was five years of age. In September, 1836, after he had been married a number of years and was the father of two children, he entered land in Root Township. Building a log house, 18 by 20 feet, he covered it with clapboards which he had chopped out of the logs himself, and laid a floor which was part puncheons and part boards. When the assessor first visited him and his residence, Mr. Daugherty was asked to place a value on the house—rather was asked how "much it cost." The builder who had done almost everything himself, truthfully replied "One dollar and fifty cents." Mr. Daughtery had six children by his first wife. He passed the last years of his life on his farm of 120 acres on sections 8 and 16, Root Township.

George A. and Byron H. Dent

Byron H. Dent was only about seven months old when he was brought by his parents from Licking County, Ohio, and commenced his infant life on the farm in section 35, Washington Township, upon which he was to pass most of his existence. At the time the Dent family settled in that locality Jeremiah Roe lived half a mile northwest, and Zachariah Smith four miles southeast. Mr. Huffer resided on the west side of the river at the point where it is now spanned by the bridge. The father, George A. Dent, entered his farm from the Government at the usual $1.25 per acre; years afterward his son, Byron H., was offered $150 per acre for the same property. There was a log cabin on the place built by Jonathan Roe the spring before the Dent family came. Mr. Roe had also a claim on forty acres of the tract which was purchased by Mr. Dent. George A. Dent lived in that cabin, with his family, until 1844, when he was elected county auditor and moved to Decatur. He was the first to hold that office in Adams County and served four years. Mr. Dent then returned to his farm and resided on it until it was cleared and otherwise improved, after which he returned to Decatur, where he died in February, 1878. The son, Byron H. Dent, succeeded to the ownership of the old farm. He became quite a democratic leader, and served as county clerk, clerk of the Circuit Court and mayor of Decatur.

First Town of Adams County

The Town of Monmouth was the first village in the county to be platted and was the only one laid out previous to the organization of the county in May, 1836. The organic act was approved by the governor in January, the first county officers were elected on the first Monday in April and the first meeting of the board of county commissioners was held May 9th. The county was not considered fully organized until its official board had met and become duly qualified to sit. The Town of Monmouth was platted in section 21, Root Township, and, although the plat was not dated, it was recorded on January 26, 1836, three days after the governor had approved the act organizing the County of Adams.

The Bonds that Bind the Hoosiers

Indiana as a state has always maintained a reputation among her sister commonwealths of the old Northwest for a certain hearty affection tending to bind her sons and daughters to her soil and the scenes of the old days. Adams County shares the reputation of the state as a whole in that regard and the meetings of the old settlers which have been held at Fourth of July celebrations, and at other stated times, the "home comings" of a later day organized by various sections of the county, and even less formal gatherings of the pioneers, have tended to closely cement the generations of her residents.

Early Fourth of July Celebrations.

The first celebration which could have come to the attention of any resident of Adams County was the Fourth of July observed at Willshire, just over the Ohio line in Van Wert County, for the year 1825. Thompson, of Thompson's Prairie, was the only one of the three or four settlers within "hailing distance" who remained within its limits. Douglas and Ayres were in the far northern wilds of Root Township, outside the pale of all such civilization as Fourth of July celebrations. There is no positive evidence that even Mr. Thompson was in attendance, but that is possible. Captain Riley's words which describe the celebration are: "An arbor was erected under some oak trees on the river bank just north of the mill, and a very long table of boards was formed. The meats were bear, venison, roast pig, turkey and chicken pie baked in tin milk basins in old New England style. (A meaty day, truly!—Editor.) The speaker's stand faced the east

and was between two large trees. A salute was fired by charging the hole in a blacksmith's anvil, which made a loud report. The oration being ended, the people, to the number of about seventy-five, took their places at the table, which had been loaded with all the luxuries that the country afforded. Mr. Golden Gree, of Shane's Crossing, asked the blessing, and those who were skilled commenced to do the carving. After-dinner toasts were drunk, using what we called metheglin, made from honey, very delicious but not intoxicating. I only remember my father's toast, which was: 'The State of Ohio, the first born of the Ordinance of 1787. May she lead the van in the cause of freedom and equity.' My Uncle Roswell sung some comic songs; also, 'Perry's Victory' and 'Hull's Surrender.' A plank floor had been laid upon scantling on the ground, and a dance by moonlight wound up the first celebration of Fourth of July in Van Wert County."

Within about a month of ten years from the time Decatur was platted as a town the first Fourth of July celebration within the actual bounds of the county was held at the seat of government. At that time there were enough people abroad to make a very respectable crowd. The anvil was "fired" at sunrise and at intervals through the forenoon, the powder being provided by J. D. Nutman, the banker, and some of his clerks. The martial music was provided by Samuel Linton and John Walker, who brought a drum and fife from the Wabash; by Messrs. Fleming and King, of Decatur, and by some Fort Wayne patriots who provided two drums and a fife. Snow in his "History of Adams County," gives an interesting picture of this Fourth of July gathering, which, more than seventy years ago, had, as its most notable features, two venerable men of that time and generation. The account notes: "After the dinner hour a procession was formed on Second Street—the militia in the lead, the oldest men in the crowd coming next, then the general public—and marched to the courthouse square, dodging stumps in the street as they went, where a platform and bower had been erected for the speaker's stand. Flags and decorations made the tenth anniversary of Decatur Town one of the events in history. The oldest residents, with others, were seated on the speaker's stand, where it was more shady and comfortable. The Declaration of Independence was read by Samuel L. Rugg, and short speeches were made and reminiscences related by some of the older men, who recited the many trials and troubles the Nation and its people had passed through on its journey to the present time. The occasion was made more real by the presence of the military company that marched in the procession and gave some drill exercises in the

court yard. Some members of the company had flintlock muskets, and others were provided with small staffs cut from the growing grubs that lined the streets in several places. Though these were not guns, they answered for drill purposes on this occasion. Some of the members of this company were Samuel Patterson, John Reed, Joseph Miller, George Steele, J. M. Nutman and Samuel S. Mickle. The officer in command was Mr. Mickle. This celebration did not call out a great crowd of people, but it was thoroughly patriotic.

The True Veterans of Adams County

"In the audience was a white-haired old man, perhaps a soldier of the War of 1812. He sat close to one of the speakers who is said to have been one of the local circuit rider preachers invited to participate in the exercises of the day. At the close of his remarks he made an eloquent reference to the national stars and stripes as they waved near him in the breeze. Then turning round he placed both hands upon the old man's head and said in substance: 'Here is a long-haired, gray-headed brother who spent his youthful years to save his nation's colors from traitors' hands. God bless his old gray head!' The minister's name was Jesse Sparks. The old man was William Nottingham, who then claimed to be one hundred and three years old. At that time he resided in what is now Kirkland Township, and was perhaps the oldest person who ever lived in Adams County."

The census of 1850 showed that in the year named the following persons were residing in Adams County who were more than sixty years of age: William Nottingham, 107 years old; Ephraim Robinson, 98; Daniel Baumgartner, 86; Solomon Fuller, 85; John Yost, 80; Charles Selby, 75; Christian Kieffer, 75; Elisha Leisure, 75; John Smith, 74; Robert Truesdale, 72; Christian Young, 70; William Brown, 70; Daniel Harmon, 69; Joseph Ross, 69; Jonathan Ray, 68; John Buckingham, 68; John Augspurger, 68; Andrew Lucky, 68; Jacob Schroll, 66; Jonathan Elzey, 65; John Johnson, 78; Tunis Young, 76; Leonard Schatzer, 75; Roger Barton, 75; John Gessinger, 74; Abraham Baughman, 71; John Cowan, 70; George T. Baker, 70; Samuel Allen, 69; Joseph Stoops, 68; Jacob Abnett, 68; Jacob Cook, 68; Holman Reynolds, 68; Jacob Schulte, 66; William Elzey, 66; Nicholas Ramey, 63; Elisha Gulich, 65; John Holmes, 64; Alvan Randal, 63; William Shepherd, 62; Wade Lufborough, 62; Nicholas Stuckey, 60; John Cox, 60; Alexander Stuart, 60; John Fonner, 60; Jacob Rush, 65; John Pine, 64; David S. Bennett, 62; Simon Yutter,

[Through the Courtesy of John F. Snow]

THE McGRIFF TWINS

Richard John

62; Christian Mersman, 61; William Hill, 62; William Syphers, 60; George Hoffle, 60; John Hart, 60.

Patriotic Gatherings

After the return of the Civil war soldiers to their homes, reunions commenced to be held which, as the years went by, developed into old settlers' meetings of a peculiarly interesting nature. With the formation of G. A. R. posts and the institution of Decoration Day the celebrations naturally assumed a patriotic, as well as a social nature, and largely took the place of the old-fashioned Fourth of July celebrations. The first gathering of the ex-boys in blue in Adams County was held in Fonner's Grove near Monmouth, and a later one, in the fall of 1865, at the grove in the old county fairgrounds southeast of Decatur. In the latter, the Eleventh Indiana Cavalry, Forty-seventh Indiana and the Eighty-ninth Indiana regiments were the principal participants.

Old Settlers' Meetings Revived

In 1894 the Old Settlers' meetings were revived, irrespective of Civil war experience. On the 23d of August of that year the surviving pioneers had a reunion at Shaffer's Grove, Town of Rivare, in St. Mary's Township. It is said fully 2,500 people were in attendance, and they were of all ages, although the old people had the seats of honor and were the special guests of the occasion. The home-coming feature of the gathering was very prominent and many were present who had been away from Adams County for many years. Music, speech-making and reminiscences, formal and informal, occupied most of the day, and among the "old-timers" who made the program possible, both by their management and participation, were the following: Samuel Schafer, of St. Mary's Township, proprietor of the grove where the reunion was held; David Studabaker, Washington Township; Norval Blackburn, and Jacob S. Hart, Decatur; Joshua Bright, Kirkland Township; John Woy and Jonathan Fleming, Root Township; Norman Acker, William Comer, William Jackson, Joseph W. Smith and John E. Teeple, St. Mary's, and J. T. Archbold and Jerry Archbold, Decatur and Root townships, respectively. Alva Miller, of Union Township, and Dr. J. Q. Neptune, of Decatur, sang pioneer songs. Rev. B. F. Kohn and his church choir of Willshire, the Methodist choir of Rivare (Bobo) and Reverend Freeland of Monroe Circuit, aided in the oratorical and musical portions of the program.

At the revival of the old settlers' meetings in 1894 David Studabaker was chosen president, Samuel A. Schafer, vice president, and Norval Blackburn, secretary and treasurer. The last old settlers' meeting of consequence occurred on September 1, 1898, at Christainer's Grove, about a mile west of Decatur.

The oldest person present at the latter meeting was Uncle Johnny Reed, of Root Township, whose ninety-ninth birthday had occurred in April, 1897, and who therefore lacked a few months of being one hundred years of age.

The Oldest Twins in the United States

Uncle Johnny McGriff, one of the McGriff twins, at that time resided with his son, Mike McGriff, at Geneva, and sent his regrets at not being able to be present at the meeting. On the 31st of August. 1804, John and Richard McGriff were born in what is now Darke County, Ohio, near Greenville. They were reared to manhood in Ohio and later came to reside in Indiana. Until the 10th of March, 1899, the McGriff brothers bore the distinction of being the oldest twins in the United States. John McGriff outlived his brother, his death occurring August 29, 1900, his life stretching over ninety-six years within two days.

CHAPTER V

COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONS

First Gathering of County Officials—More Officials Named—Three Commissioners' Districts—Two Road Districts—Inspectors of Elections and Fence Viewers—Grand and Petit Jurors—Johnson Site Selected as County Seat—Donations at the County Seat—The Other Sites Offered—Organization Further Perfected—County Finances and Jail—First Road Improvements in County—Licenses, Various and Sundry—Thrown into Debt the First Year—First County Jail—Creation and Organization of More Townships—The County Seal—The Old Frame Courthouse—Contest of 1850—The Courthouse of 1873—Improved in Durability and Appearance—The County Infirmary—Typical Pioneer and County Official—Founder of Decatur—Roster of County Officials.

The Root Township, Allen County, of 1833, became Adams County by the legislative act which was approved by the governor in January, 1836. The new county was divided into Root and St. Mary's townships, the former constituting a strip six miles wide from north to south and ten miles from east to west. St. Mary's Township was the southern and Root, the northern division.

First Gathering of County Officials

The early civil history of Adams County is epitomized in the official report of the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, held May 9, 1836, which is as follows: "After the passage of the act organizing the County of Adams, which was approved January 23, 1836, the Governor, in conformity to law, issued a writ of election for the election of the necessary county officers on the first Monday in April, 1836, at which time Jehu S. Rhea, Samuel Smith and William Heath, Sr., were elected county commissioners in and for said county.

"Present, Jehu S. Rhea, who presented his certificate of election from the sheriff of Adams County that he was elected county com-

[Through the Courtesy of John F. Snow]

PRESENT COURTHOUSE OF ADAMS COUNTY

missioner for the term of two years from the first Monday in August next; present also, Samuel Smith, who presented his certificate of office from the hand of the sheriff of the county, certifying that he was duly elected county commissioner of Adams County for the term of one year from the first Monday in August next. And by an endorsement on the back of each of the said certificates it appears that each of the said commissioners has taken the oath of office prescribed by law, and they therefore took their seats as a Board of Commissioners for the County of Adams in conformity to law.

"Present also, Samuel L. Rugg, clerk, and David McKnight, sheriff, and the Board therefore proceeded to business.

"Thomas Ruble, Esq., made a report on oath of the fines imposed by him since the organization of the county, which amounted to five dollars.

"Ordered, that David McKnight be allowed the sum of one dollar and fifty cents for advertising in the Fort Wayne Sentinel the act organizing the County of Adams.

"Ordered, that John K. Adams be appointed seminary trustee until the first Monday in May, 1837, and that he give bond and security in the sum of $25 for the performance of his duties in said office.

"Ordered that Joshua Major be appointed constable in St. Mary's Township until the first Monday in April next, and that he appear and give security according to law.

"The Board adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock.

"JEHU S. RHEA,
"President.

"SAMUEL L. RUGG,
"Clerk."

MORE OFFICIALS NAMED

The second day's proceedings are thus recorded: "Ordered, that Jeremiah Roe be appointed treasurer of Adams County until February next, and that he be summoned to appear and give bond and security for the acceptance of the Board for the performance of the duties of his office.

"Ordered, that David McKnight be appointed assessor to serve until the first Monday in January, 1837, and that he give bond and security for the performance of the duties of his office.

"Ordered, that John K. Evans be appointed collector for the state and county revenues for one year from the first Monday in May, 1836.

Three Commissioners' Districts

"Ordered that the county be divided into three commissioners' districts, as follows: All that part of the county which is north of the township line dividing towns 27 and 28 north, shall form Commissioners' District No. 1; all that part north of the township line dividing towns 26 and 27 north and south of the first mentioned line, Commissioners' District No. 2; all south of the line dividing townships 26 and 27, Commissioners' District No. 3. (District No. 1 thus included the present townships of Union, Root and Preble; No. 2, Kirkland, Washington and St. Mary's; No. 3, the southern half of the county, comprising Blue Creek, Monroe, French, Hartford, Wabash and Jefferson.)

Two Road Districts

"Ordered that Root Township be divided into two road districts, to-wit: All of the township on the east side of the St. Mary's river shall form Road District No. 1, and Jonathan Roe is appointed road supervisor in said district; all west of said river to form District No. 2, and William Ball is appointed supervisor of roads in said district.

"Ordered that St. Mary's Township be divided into two road districts, to-wit: All that part of the township which lies east of St. Mary's River to form District No. 1, and Elias Dailey is appointed supervisor of roads; and all that part of the township lying on the west side of the St. Mary's River and east of the north and south center line of Adams County shall form District No. 2, and Thomas Ruble is appointed supervisor of roads."

Inspectors of Election and Fence Viewers

Other "orders" made Enos W. Butler inspector of elections in Root Township until the first Monday in March, 1837; Thomas Ruble appointed to the same office for the same term in St. Mary's; William Heath, Sr., and Eli Zimmerman became overseers of the poor for St. Mary's Township and Vachel Ball and John W. Wise, for Root Township, until the first Monday in April, 1837; Jonas Pence and Bail W. Butler, fence viewers for Root Township covering the same period, and Joel Roe and Zachariah Smith, Jr., for St. Mary's Township.

Grand and Petit Jurors

The grand jurors named for the fall term of the Adams County Circuit Court were Joel Roe, John Ross, Sr., Michael Roe, Bail W.

Butler, William Heath, Sr., Jonas Pence, Robert Smith, Jehu S. Rhea, Benjamin F. Gorsline, Samuel Smith, William Ball William Thatcher, William Biram, John Catterlin, Jonathan Roe, Eli Zimmerman, James Ball and Abraham Elifrits. Petit jurors: John W. Wise, Thomas Ruble, John W. Cooley, Joseph Wise, Joseph Thatcher, Peter Studabaker, Enos W. Butler, William Major, Otha Gandy, James H. Ball, Esaias Dailey, Jacob Fitsimmons, Vachel Ball, Joshua Major, Joseph Troutner, George Wimer, Benjamin F. Blossom, Job Wolf, Joseph Hill, Jacob England, Philip Everman, Daniel Ball, Theron Harper and Zachariah Smith.

Johnson Site Selected as County Seat

At the special meeting of the commissioners held May 18, 1836, the only business transacted of historic importance (and it comes fairly within that classification) was the reception and the consideration of the report of the commissioners appointed by the state to locate the seat of justice for the new county. This was the report which covers their labors of three days:

"May 16—The commissioners appointed to locate the county seat of the County of Adams, agreeably to the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana approved January 23, 1836, met at the house of John Reynolds in said county. Present, William Stewart, Joseph H. McMaken, Robert Hood and William G. Johnson; who, being duly sworn according to law, proceeded to examine the different sites offered for the county seat of said county, and after examining four sites presented for the county seat, to-wit, the sites of Thomas Johnson, R. L. Britton & Henry Work, Joseph Morgan & Thomas Prichard, and Samuel L. Rugg, the commissioners returned to the house of John Reynolds, as aforesaid, and adjourned until tomorrow morning.

"May 17—The commissioners aforesaid now proceeded as far toward the center of the county as they deemed expedient, and found it impracticable to establish the county seat of said county at the center; and after returning to the house of John Reynolds organized themselves by appointing William Stewart president, and Robert Hood, secretary, and thereupon notified the proprietors of the town sites to hand in their proposals; whereupon Thomas Johnson handed in his proposals marked A; R. L. Britton & Henry Work, B; Samuel L. Rugg, C, and Joseph Morgan & Thomas Pritchard, D.

"May 18—The commissioners aforesaid met pursuant to adjournment; present, the same commissioners as yesterday. There being no

further sites offered or proposals made, the commissioners aforesaid, after due deliberation, do select the site offered by Thomas Johnson as the most suitable, and thereupon permanently fixed and established the county seat of the County of Adams on the said site, being part of the northeast quarter of section 3, township 27 north, range 14 east; and thereupon proceeded to the aforesaid town site and marked a white oak tree about two feet in diameter with two blazes on four sides, on each of which the commissioners individually subscribed his name; which tree is to be within the said town site.

"And the commissioners adjourned without day.

"WILLIAM STEWART,
"JOSEPH H. MCMAKEN,
"WILLIAM G. JOHNSON,
"ROBERT HOOD."

The site thus chosen included what afterward became the business section of Decatur, and Mr. Johnson turned over his property on terms very favorable to the county. The purchase price was $3,100; $500 payable in one year, the remainder in three years. He also donated four lots for churches, favoring the Presbyterians, the Catholics, the Methodists and the Baptists. Mr. Johnson further paid the expense of the locating commissioners, and furnished a building for holding court and as a place of meeting for the board of county commissioners, as well as providing accommodations for the county officers. This building was understood to be temporary, to be used only until a courthouse could be provided.

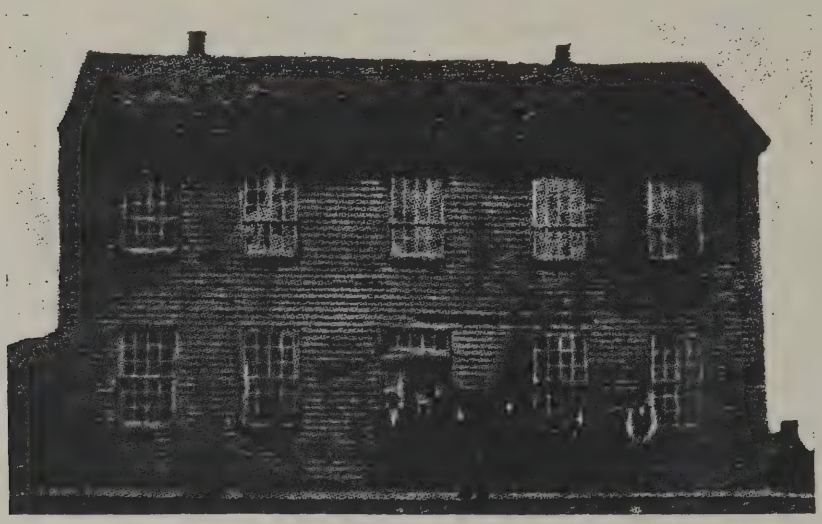
DONATIONS AT THE COUNTY SEAT

Jehu S. Rhea donated to the county twenty acres off the west end of an eighty-acre lot on the southwest quarter of section 2 (the old county fairground), and Samuel L. Rugg added ten acres adjoining Mr. Johnson's land in section 3, which included the present Water Works Park. The original plat of Decatur was filed September 22, 1836. Various additions were afterward made extending the site into the northeast quarter of section 4, Washington Township, and into the south half of section 34, Root Township.

THE OTHER SITES OFFERED

It is said that the site for the county seat proposed by Samuel L. Rugg was what afterward was the Tonnelier farm on the south side

of St. Mary's River, adjoining what is now Decatur near where the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad crosses the St. Mary's River. The Morgan & Pritchard site included the present Town of Monmouth and land lying west of that locality to St. Mary's River. The Britton & Work site was in the geographical center of the county, but was low and swampy, and as there was no prospect of bringing it within convenient reach of the eastern and northeastern sections of the county, which were receiving the bulk of the new settlers, the location met



ADAMS COUNTY'S FIRST COURTHOUSE

with little consideration. From the first, Decatur had no serious opposition as the seat of justice, although it was over three years before a regular courthouse was provided for the use of court, board and county officers.

ORGANIZATION FURTHER PERFECTED

A month and two days after the locating commissioners had decided in favor of Decatur, the county board held a meeting to further perfect civil organization. At that session John Reynolds was appointed county treasurer to succeed Jeremiah Roe, resigned, and Joseph Wise and John W. Cooley were chosen constables for Root Township. Wabash was created as the third township of the county, and then covered the southern tier of the present townships, and half of the next tier north. This meeting was held on June 20, 1836, and in the following August David Studabaker was appointed in-

spector of election for the officers who were to be chosen for Wabash Township. At that election a supervisor, constable, two overseers of the poor and two fence viewers were selected.

County Finances and Jail

Sheriff David McKnight was also allowed nearly $9 for making the first assessment of property in Adams County, and the tax levy for county purposes was fixed at one-half of 1 per cent. The clerk was directed to advertise for proposals for building a county jail, to be completed by July 1, 1837. The courthouse could wait; the jail had to be built. It was evident that the expenses for providing accommodations for the county officials were not crushing, as the board of county commissioners allowed John Reynolds only $12 for the use of his house up to September, as a place of meeting for that body and for the voters of the county, when any matters pressed either for solution.

First Road Improvements in County

At the September session of the county board, Esaias Dailey was appointed county road commissioner to take charge of the proportion of the 3 per cent fund recently created by the State Legislature to encourage the building of roads in various sections of Indiana. The sum of $600 was appropriated for the State Road "leading from the State line to the Allen county line on the west side of the St. Mary's" and $400 for the State road "leading from the State line near Willshire to the Allen county line on the east side of the St. Mary's river." These sums represent the first expenditures for the improvement of roads within Adams County after its erection as a separate political body. The roads to which reference is made were improved and reimproved and are still sections of well known and often traveled highways in Adams County. They run northwest and southeast, nearly parallel with the St. Mary's River between them. The road on the east side was virtually the old Wayne trace, and only needed to be repaired and supplied with bridges to be in good shape.

Licenses, Various and Sundry

The board of commissioners at the September session of 1836 fixed various licenses, as follows: For taverns and groceries, $10 each; merchants, $10 for the first $3,000 invested in business, and an addi-

tional amount proportionate to the capital involved; $5 for peddling wooden clocks. James M. Wilson was granted the first license to sell "spirituous and strong liquors and foreign and domestic groceries."

The first marriage license was issued by the clerk of the court to Joseph Troutner and Sarah Weimer, and the ceremony was performed on July 3, 1836, by Thomas Ruble, justice of the peace. Another license was issued the 2d of August to Philip Evermore and Lydia Liste, who were married two days later by 'Squire E. W. Butler.

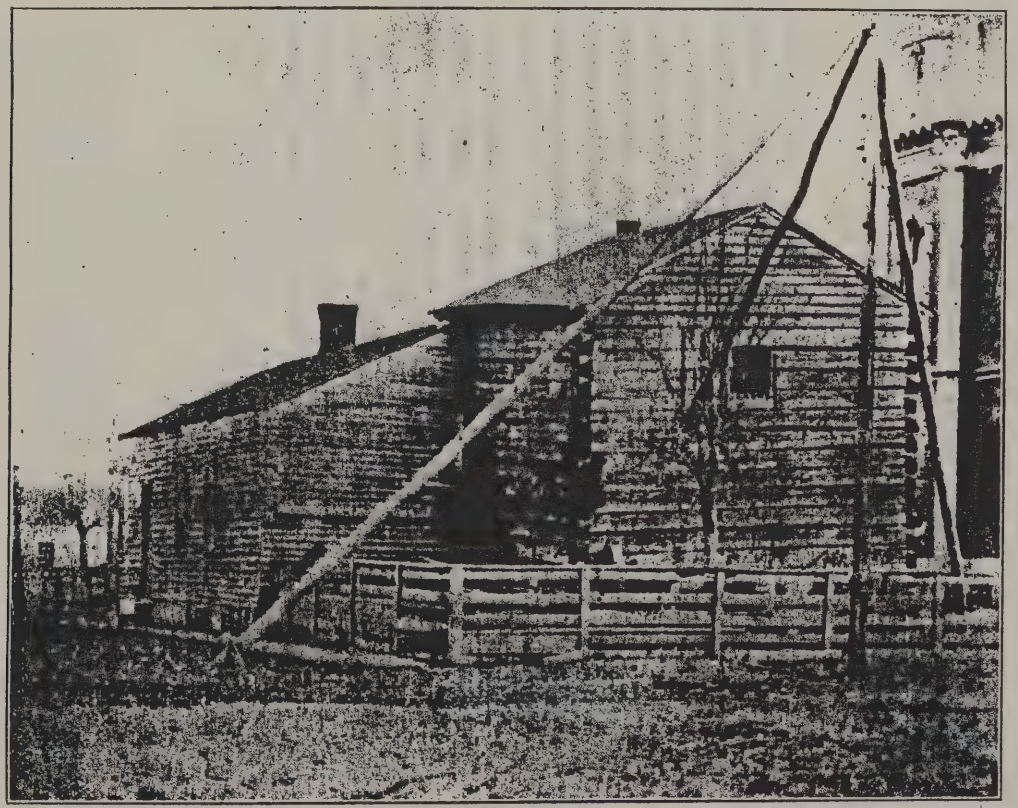
Thrown Into Debt the First Year

At the end of the year 1836 Adams County found itself in debt. The tax collector had turned $107.22 into the treasury and $10 had been received for a grocery license, making the total income $117.22. During the same period the county had paid out for services on account of official business, with contingent expenses, $157.44; for books and stationery, $67.43 and a fraction of a cent, and for jury fees, $45, making the total expenditures $272.27 and a fraction. From which figures it is evident that Adams County had an indebtedness of more than $155 at the conclusion of its first year of official life.

It appears from the records that Elias Dailey was licensed to sell liquors and groceries in February, 1837, and that James M. Wilson was allowed $11.50 for making the 1837 assessment on all the property then possessed—real estate and personal, including lands and live stock but not bank stock, railroad stock, tractors or automobiles. The tax levy for 1837 was placed at one-third of one per cent for county purposes, and 20 cents per $100 and 50 cents per capita, for state purposes. Each poll tax was 75 cents.

First County Jail

The county jail was completed in July, 1837. The contract was first let to Richard McKnight and William Lewis, but they appear to have sublet to Bazil Browning. At all events, late in the fall an order was drawn on the county treasury in Mr. Browning's favor "in the sum of three hundred dollars as payment for completion of the jail." The total amount donated for the building of the jail was $650. It was a double-hewed log affair, and comprised two rooms above and two below. The jail was used, according to circumstances, for more than thirty years. It is said that the circumstance which led the authorities to believe that its usefulness was at an end occurred in 1868. Some time in that year one John W. Williams was confined



[Through the Courtesy of John F. Snow]

THE OLD LOG JAIL

in the jail, but readily released by some outsider who bored through the logs into his cell. Lafayette Riley was arrested for aiding the prisoner to escape, but although it does not appear that the charge was proven, it was evident that the jail did not meet the requirements of a secure place of confinement, and was little used after that episode.

The jail stood on the southeast corner of the courthouse square. It was not entirely abandoned until 1879, when it was destroyed by fire. The new brick jail on Market Street was completed in 1886.

Creation and Organization of More Townships

At the March term of the board of commissioners for 1838, the Townships of Blue Creek, Jefferson and Washington were created, and elections ordered in each of them to be held on the first Monday of the following April, for a justice of the peace, a constable, an inspector of elections, one or two supervisors of roads, two overseers of the poor and two fence viewers. The inspectors of elections chosen were as follows: Pliny Flagg, Blue Creek, election at the house of Samuel Flagg; Robert Webster, Jefferson; Jacob Huffer, Washington. At the time that Jefferson Township was thus organized, two tiers of sections on the west were attached temporarily, but were afterward restored to Wabash. That part of section 34 west of St. Mary's River, which includes a part of the City of Decatur, was also attached to Washington Township in March, 1838, and it has retained that political connection ever since.

At the next session of the Commissioners' Court in the same year Preble Township was organized from St. Mary's, and comprised a tract four miles wide from east to west and six miles long, from north to south, in the extreme northwestern corner of the county.

The County Seal

In January, 1839, the board of commissioners adopted a seal which had been purchased by the clerk. Its official description: "It is of brass, five eighths of an inch thick, and circular in opposite dimensions, one inch and three quarters in diameter. Within the periphery are, first, one heavy and one light circular lines, within which lines are the words 'Adams Board of County Commissioners, Indiana'; next to which words is a heavy circular line, then a broad ornamental circular line, then another plain line, within which is the figure of a Durham short-horned cow, represented standing with her head to the

right hand on the seal." This seal was used until considerably worn, and then the one now in use was obtained, which is of substantially the same design.

The Old Frame Courthouse

The May session of that year was a maker of county history. French Township drew for its composition from both the southwest of St. Mary's Township and the northwest corner of Wabash. But the creation of a new township was not the chief historical happening of that meeting. A "permanent" frame courthouse was put under way through the following order passed by the board of commissioners, which named as contractors County Treasurer Reynolds and County Clerk Rugg: "Ordered, that John Reynolds and Samuel L. Rugg be authorized to build a courthouse on Lot No. 94 in the Town of Decatur, which shall be a framed house built of good material, thirty by forty feet in size and two stories high; the lower story or room to be left without any partitions, and the upper story or room divided into rooms to accommodate the grand and petit juries, and that they convey the said lot to the county by its proper agent, for which lot they shall be allowed the sum of $50, the cost of which, together with the cost of building the said house, shall be paid out of the donation soon to become due from the said John Reynolds and Samuel L. Rugg. The expenses of building the said house shall be adjusted and agreed upon by the county agent with the said contractors, and said county agent shall exercise a kind of superintendence over the completion of the said building and adjust the costs of the said building with the said builders in a fair and equable manner, and that the said building shall be completed by the October term of the Adams Circuit Court, if possible. The weather boarding on the two sides next to the streets shall be planed."

The old frame courthouse was used only for holding court, and its construction and interior arrangement were generally supervised by the county agent, who at the time was Enos W. Butler. The county officers appear to have occupied rented quarters until 1849, when two small brick buildings were erected on the northeast and southeast corners of the square; in the former were the county clerk's and recorder's offices, and in the latter, those of the treasurer and auditor. The county sold the old frame courthouse when the brick structure was completed in 1873. It stood at the corner of Madison and Third streets to the west of the courthouse of the present, on the opposite side of the street. The frame house was used for a variety of pur-

The New County Jail

poses. In the late '80s it found its way to First Street, where it was placed in service as a warehouse for the woolen mill. Still later it was moved to Front Street near Jefferson and occupied as a lodging house, being located on the property of Willard Steele.

Contest of 1850

The records of the county seat contest in 1850 show that Pleasant Mills received two votes for the location; Monmouth, 14; Monroe, 343, and Decatur, 474. It is said that had it not been for the influence swung by James Crabbs and J. D. Nutman, with their large mercantile, lumber and hotel interests at Decatur, that Monroe would have been selected.

The Courthouse of 1873

When the courthouse now occupied was completed in 1873, at a cost of some $90,000, it was considered a fine public building. At that time it was described as "a beautiful and commodious structure of Philadelphia pressed brick, Berea sandstone and iron, with hall floors of marble. It is fire-proof, and its court room is beautifully frescoed and painted. The building is two stories high, 70 by 120 feet in dimensions, with a mansard roof and a tower, the latter nearly 160 feet high from the basement."

The corner-stone of the present courthouse was laid with Masonic and Odd Fellows ceremonies on the 4th of July, 1872. It is on the north side of the structure and bears the following inscription: "George W. Luckey, Josiah Crawford, George Frank, county commissioners. Seymour Worden, auditor. James R. Robo, attorney. J. C. Johnson, architect, Fremont, Ohio. Christian Boseker, contractor and builder."

Improved in Durability and Appearance

John W. Snow states: "Originally, the tower was not properly supported. It was massive and was in the center of the building, right over the large court room, with no support directly under the center that reached the foundation on the ground. It was upon a bridge work that rested on the side walls of the building, and its swaying back and forth by the wind storms caused so much apprehension that in 1900 it was taken down. A new tower, with suitable anchorage and supports, was then constructed at the front of the structure.

Made of solid brick work sixty or seventy feet above the main building, it not only adds much to the appearance of the court house, but makes it a durable structure."

The County Infirmary

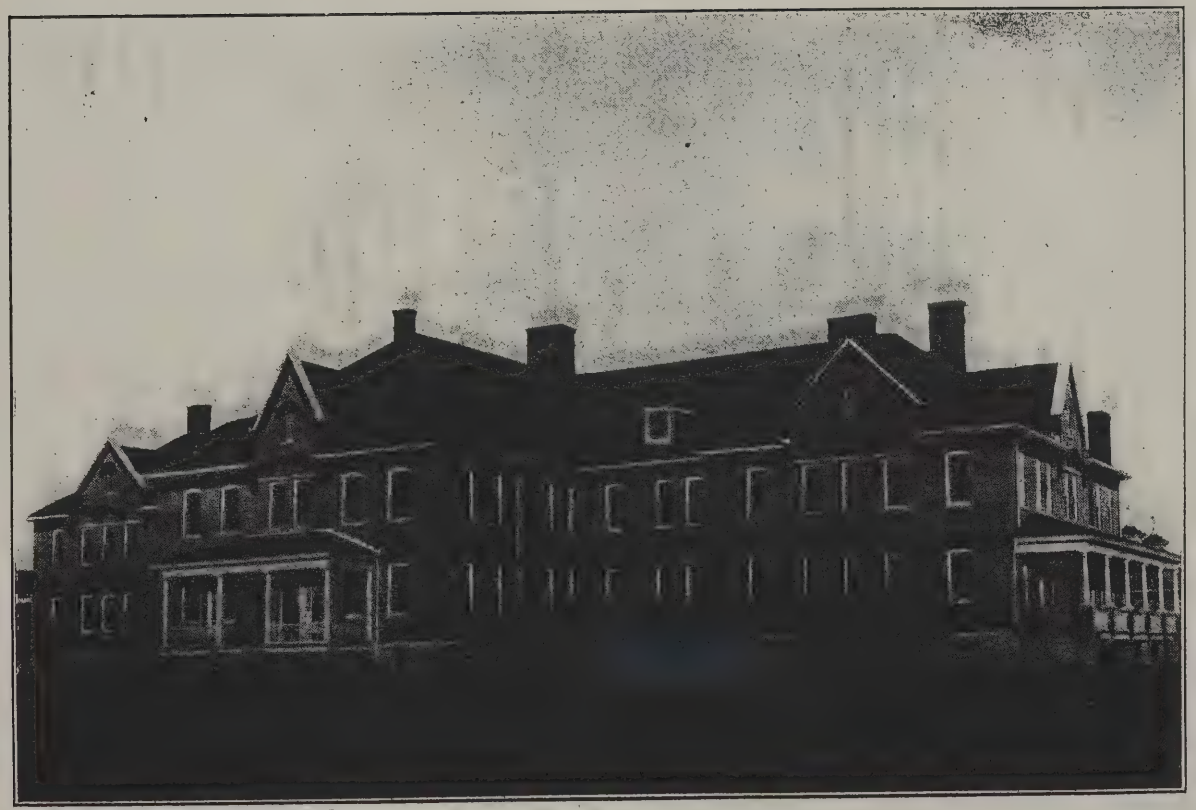
The county infirmary is located half a mile south of Decatur on high rolling land of good quality. The farm, comprising 270 acres, was originally purchased by the county in 1875. With the exception of ten acres of timber and the area occupied by the buildings, the entire tract has been cultivated to wheat, oats and corn, vegetables, fruit, and pasturage for the live stock. The farm includes a fine pasture of 5 acres, the infirmary live stock comprising 20 milch cows, 30 head of young cattle, 40 head of hogs and 8 horses; an apple orchard of two acres, and a 4-acre garden in which are raised potatoes, beans and other truck. The farm is thoroughly drained with tiling and two large barns provide storage for the produce and shelter for the live stock.

The infirmary building is a large two-story structure of brick, with basement; contains more than eighty rooms and was erected at a cost of about $35,000. That was in 1901. The original infirmary was a temporary building erected at a cost of only $2,000 to shelter the county charges until a more suitable structure could be built. A house which already stood on the property was used by the superintendent as his residence. The first inmate was admitted June 15, 1875; the present number is thirty-four, of whom ten are women. About ten per cent of the inmates are called upon to perform some work, either domestic or in connection with the farm.

The superintendents of the infirmary have been Hampton Fristoe, Andrew J. Teefle, W. H. H. France, George W. Hafeling, J. R. Graber and Martin Laughlin, the present incumbent. Mr. Graber, who was superintendent for sixteen years, concluded his long term of service in February, 1911.

Typical Pioneer and County Official

Samuel L. Rugg, who has been mentioned in connection with the early and official history of Adams County, was a popular and able pioneer. He was at one time a Cincinnati machinist, and a man of some means suggested to him a partnership in a mill enterprise to be pushed in the new Indiana country. Mr. Rugg accordingly came on several years before the county was organized. He managed to push and wade through what is now the southern part of Adams and headed



[Through the Courtesy of John F. Snow]

ADAMS COUNTY INFIRMARY

for the southern bank of the Wabash. At the present site of Decatur he found what he sought—a good water power; another necessity was lacking, the demand for a mill because of grain to be ground, for when Mr. Rugg reached the locality he could not find a bushel of grain to grind within a radius of twenty miles. Although he decided to remain and await settlement, he wrote to his partner suggesting a postponement of the mill project. A year or two later, as new settlers did not appear to any great extent, the partners relinquished the idea altogether, and the machinery which was to have been used in the Adams County mill went into a similar establishment in Huntington County.

When Adams County was organized in 1836 Mr. Rugg was elected its first clerk and held the office for eighteen years. Then, in 1854, he was chosen joint senator for Allen and Adams counties, and a year later became a resident of Fort Wayne. In 1858 he was elected state superintendent of public instruction. He was popular, honest and altogether a man of large caliber. Although he died at Nashville, Tennessee, in 1871, his remains were returned to Decatur which he always considered his home town.

The Founder of Decatur

Mr. Rugg was considered the founder of Decatur. From the first he was loyal to her interests, and the town and the city reciprocated his confidence in her. As Mr. Snow adds in his history: "Through his untiring effort the old plank road from Fort Wayne to Saint Mary's left the straight and graded roadway up the Piqua line to pass through Decatur, then his new town. Before it came, no business thrived or trade of any consequence left the Piqua road. In this enterprise Mr. Rugg spent hundreds of dollars and was financially crippled from its results. He built the first steam saw mill in the county, and furnished the lumber for a number of miles of the plank road in 1852-53, in order that it pass through Decatur. To four of the principal churches in Decatur he donated their church lots. When Mr. Rugg entered these lands in 1833 and petitioned that a new township be made in Allen county, he saw a future county. When he petitioned the State Legislature for a separate county, in 1835, he saw a prospective county seat on the lands he had entered. When his county seat was established, he saw an exercise of power, an action he more coveted than the money received in all his office holding or from the town lots sold. Yet that power was all for public good; not his own aggrandizement. He went to the Senate in 1854, and a more

diligent member could not be found in the General Assembly. Many of the state laws on town and county matters date from the '50s.

"It has been truly said that ofttimes the most thoroughly educated men are not the most practical in public service. It is equally true that many who have not enjoyed extensive school training have executive ability in a high degree and are natural leaders of men. Mr. Rugg was a thorough business man, a skilful accountant, a man of legal knowledge and one who was not afraid to perform the duties required of him. When a state public officer, his plans for the collection and distribution of the revenues for tuition show him to have been an economist of rare merit. Much of the interest on congressional funds had not been accounted for, and he at once begun legal proceedings against the delinquent officers of the various counties, and secured many thousands of dollars which rightfully were intended to educate the youth of the state. Here he again shows his desire to control, not wealth, but what money will buy, the education of the children of the country. After retiring from office he took up his residence at Huntsville, Alabama, and while visiting a son at Nashville, Tennessee, died a poor man at the age of sixty-five years and seven months, on the 28th of March, 1871. A marble monument in the old cemetery at Decatur, his old home, marks the last resting place of one of the ablest and best of Adam's county citizens."

Roster of County Officials

Mr. Rugg's name is a worthy one with which to introduce the official roster of Adams County. The chief officials are given below, with the exception of those connected with the judiciary and the school systems of the county who are recorded in the chapters devoted to those special topics.

County clerks—Samuel L. Rugg, 1836; Samuel S. Mickle, 1854; James B. Simcoke, 1855; John McConnell, 1863; A. Judson Hill, 1875; Norval Blackburn, 1878; John D. Hale, 1882; John H. Lenhart, 1890; Elmer Johnson, 1898; David Gerber, 1902; James P. Hoefling, 1906; Ferdinand Bleeke, 1908; Will Hammell, 1914.

Auditors—George A. Dent, 1841; William Trout, 1845; John McConnell, 1850; William G. Spencer, 1859; Seymour Worden, 1867; Godfrey Christen, 1875; Lewis C. Miller, 1883; W. H. H. France, 1891-1895 (died in office); Irvin Brandyberry, appointed to fill out the unexpired term; Noah Mangold, 1896; Abe A. Boch, 1900; Carey D. Lewton, 1904; Henry S. Michaud, 1908; Thomas H. Boltzell, 1912; John Mosure, 1916.

Recorders—Samuel L. Rugg, 1841; Oliver T. Hart, 1848; William J. Adelspurger, 1858; M. V. B. Simcoke, 1866; J. J. Chubb, 1870;

Township Trustees of Adams County, 1912-16

John Schurger, 1874; A. McW. Bollman, 1882; William Baughman, 1890; Harvey H. Harruff, 1894; Thomas M. Gallogley, 1898; Clinton C. Cloud, 1902; Hervey S. Steele, 1906; Andrew F. Welfley, 1910; Aaron Augsburger, 1914.

Treasurers—Jeremiah Roe, 1836; John Reynolds, 1836; James Crabbs, 1841; Samuel S. Mickle, 1847; James B. Simcoke, 1848; John Crawford, 1852; David Showers, 1856; Charles L. Schirmeyer, 1860; Jesse Niblick, 1864; John Meibers, 1868; John Dirkson, 1872; Anthony Holthouse, 1876; Robert D. Patterson, 1880; Andrew Gottschalk, 1884; Perry Robison, 1888; Daniel P. Bolds, 1892; Jonas Neuenschwander, 1896; J. H. Voglewede, 1900; John F. Lachot, 1904; Charles W. Yager, 1908; W. J. Archbold, 1912; George Kinzle, 1914.

Sheriffs—Daniel McKnight, 1836; Zachariah Smith, 1836; Alvin Randall, 1840; Alexander Fleming, 1842; James B. Simcoke, 1846; John N. Little, 1848; David McDonald, 1850; Jacob King, 1854; David McDonald, 1856; George Frank, 1858; Jacob Stults, 1862; James Stoops, Jr., 1866; David King, 1870; E. Philison Stoops, 1874; Henry Krick, 1878; Michael McGriff, 1882; Perry A. Lewton, 1886 (died in office); L. W. Lewton, filled out the term from 1889; Mark M. McConnell, 1890; Samuel Doak, 1892; Peter P. Ashbaucher, 1894; Dan N. Erwin, 1898; Albert A. Butler, 1902; Eli Meyer, 1906; Thomas J. Durkin, 1910; Edward Green, 1914.

Surveyors—Philemon N. Collins, 1852; E. W. Reed, 1858; H. Hart, 1859; Christian F. Stauffer, 1860; H. C. Peterson, 1868; Harry B. Knoff, 1870; Gabriel F. Kintz, 1874; James T. Simcoke, 1882; John W. Tyndall, 1886; William E. Fulk, 1894; George McKean, 1900; Levi L. Baumgartner, 1906; Charles C. Ernst, 1908; Phil. L. Macklin, 1912; Orval Harruff, 1916.

Coroners—Jonas Pence, 1836; John W. Cooley, 1837; Enos M. Butler, 1838; Daniel Weimer, 1839; James Niblick, 1840; William Elzey, 1844; Jacob King, 1846; Jesse Niblick, 1848; Thomas W. Andrews, 1850; Charles Gorsline, 1852; Levi Ewing, 1853; Cornelius B. Lemaster, 1854; Levi Ewing, 1856; John King, Jr., 1859; D. D. Barnhart, 1860; William D. Baker, 1868; John E. Smith, 1870; Samuel C. Bolman, 1874; John E. Smith, 1876; A. B. Tullis, 1878; J. E. Smith, 1880; Charles A. Jelleff, 1886; O. T. May, 1890; C. S. Clark, 1894; C. H. Schenck, 1902; J. S. Falk, 1904; John C. Grandstaff, 1906; David D. Clark, 1912.

Land appraisers—George Frank, 1863; Andrew Barkley, 1869; Ferdinand Reinking, 1875. Office abolished.

(For prosecuting attorneys, associate judges, probate judges and circuit judges, see Bench and Bar.)

(For superintendents of schools, see County Schools.)

CHAPTER VI

GENERAL COUNTY MATTERS

Population of the County—French and German Settlers—Largest Land Owners in 1850—Decadal Census Figures (1860-1910)—Increase in Property Value, 1886-1916—Taxes of the County (1916)—Division of Farm Lands—Changes in Standard Crops and Live Stock—Early Roads—Wouldn't be Forced as "John Doe"—Direction of Travel Diverted—Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad—Toledo, St. Louis & Western—The Chicago & Erie Railroad.

There are certain matters intimately relating to the county which concern neither its government nor its institutions. They are mostly represented by hard-headed facts; they are proofs by figures and statistics of general statements which have been made, or may be hereafter advanced as to the growth of the county in the things which lie at the basis of its material prosperity; development in good drains, good roads, in population and in wealth of grain crops and live stock. The reader who has long lived in Adams County and knows such general statements are true need not read this chapter, and the comparatively uninformed may also pass it, if he has no liking for such a brand of literature. The author believes that much may be learned from even a hasty perusal of the facts and figures here presented.

Population of the County

Along about 1840 the influx of settlers to Adams County commenced to take on such proportions that every new arrival did not create a sensation and later, as the Wabash & Erie Canal and the Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad penetrated the interior of Indiana through the valley of the Wabash, this section of the state received its share of the general impetus. As the means of entry and exit became easier, prospectors increased in number and, once having tasted of the comforts and delights of the country, remained to achieve permanent prosperity and enjoyment. The decade preceding the Civil war was

a period of remarkably vigorous development, both French and German immigrants forming a number of prosperous settlements.

French and German Settlers

The census of 1850 shows a French settlement in Southern Kirkland and Northern French Townships, and German settlements in Northwestern Wabash and Southwestern Monroe Townships, as well as in Western Root and Northern Preble. At that time Hartford Township reported but one German family and Jefferson Township, three German residents. Soon afterward numerous immigrants, many of whom had come to America as a result of the Revolution of 1848, commenced to take up farms in the Wabash Valley through the operations of speculators and land companies. Many an eighty-acre farm in Adams and adjoining counties was thus purchased with French or German gold; and, at the breaking out of the Civil war, not a few of these Americanized farmers went to the front and sturdily performed their part in the great contest for a united country.

From 1845 to 1855 it was not uncommon to see land buyers going on horseback, in bands of from six to ten, conducted by well posted residents. These prospectors were often speculators, who were looking for profitable investments in western lands. They often bought large tracts and retailed them to smaller purchasers from the older states who desired to become actual settlers. By thus putting up the price of land to be purchased by those who came to found homes, permanent settlement was somewhat retarded, although this class of land speculators were not in such bad repute as those who kept large tracts of land out of the market, waiting for a rise of values which was sure to come with the passage of the years.

Largest Land Owners in 1850

In 1850, as shown by the census records, the following were the largest land owners in Adams County: M. F. Burkhead, 1,080 acres; Eli Zimmerman, 1,000 acres; Denison Tinkham, 530 acres; Morgan Smith, 465 acres; Samuel Acker, 410 acres; Bazil Hendricks, 400 acres; Henry Fuelling, 400 acres; Peter Moyer, 400 acres; Peter Moser, 375 acres; John Watson, 360 acres; John Hartman, 360 acres; Josiah Crawford, 360 acres; John Everhart, 360 acres; J. Buffenbarger, 360 acres; Reuben Lord, 355 acres; Alexander Fleming, 352 acres; Thomas Fisher, 346 acres; Daniel Ball, 330 acres; George A. Dent, 329 acres; James Glendening, 325 acres; Thomas Watson, 320

acres; Peter Lahman, 320 acres; Samuel Agit, 320 acres; Henry Galbraith, 320 acres; John H. Blakey, 320 acres; John K. Evans, 310 acres; Adam Faey, 310 acres; John Stephens, 280 acres; Isaac Falb, 275 acres; William McDonald, 275 acres. In the foregoing list will be recognized the names of some of the "solid" residents of Adams county; not a few well known officials of the county. At that time the foreign element had not filtered in to any extent, many of the settlers having come from Western Ohio.

Decadal Census Figures (1860-1910)

By 1860 the population of Adams County had reached 9,252; 1870, 11,382; 1880, 15,385. In the decade 1870-80, which showed such a marked increase in population, the two principal lines of railroad which accommodate Adams County were completed—one traversing it substantially from north to south and the other, from east to west. Obviously, the census enumerators considered 1880 a favorable year in which to exploit their work and therefore put forth some very interesting data.

The population of 1880 by townships was as follows: Blue Creek, 931; French, 1,032; Hartford, 1,103; Jefferson, 648; Kirkland, 793; Monroe, 1,534; Preble, 997; Root, 1,270; St. Mary's, 979; Union, 912; Wabash, 1,991 (including Geneva Village, 567); Washington, 3,159 (including Decatur Town, 1,905).

The native-born population in 1880 was 13,948, of which number 9,418 were born in Indiana, 3,442 in Ohio, 584 in Pennsylvania, 89 in New York; 44 in Illinois and 22 in Kentucky. The foreign-born population was 1,401, of which 757 were born in Germany.

The decade 1880-90 was also one of decided expansion, the increase was less marked for the following decade, and the decadal census for the year 1910 shows an actual decline, compared with the figures of 1900. The conclusion of the decade ending 1920 may exhibit either a decrease or an increase—the matter will be determined, as in so many other questions at issue, by the duration of the world's war and the influence which it is to exert on the population of Adams County.

By townships and corporations the population of the county has been as follows for the last three decadal years of the national census:

	1910	1900	1890
Civil Divisions	21,840	22,232	20,181
Blue Creek Township	1,168	1,127	1,212
French Township	974	1,115	1,095
Hartford Township	1,285	1,424	1,276
Jefferson Township	1,093	1,183	1,092
Kirkland Township	919	1,090	1,094
Monroe Township (including Monroe Town and part of Berne Town)	3,050	3,326	2,685
Berne Town (part of)	800		
Total of Berne Town in Monroe and Wabash Townships	1,316	1,037	544
Monroe Town	334		
Preble Township	1,051	1,180	1,122
Root Township	1,264	1,234	1,394
St. Mary's Township	1,085	1,090	1,066
Union Township	956	1,040	991
Wabash Township (including Geneva Town and part of Berne Town)	3,171	2,870	2,429
Berne Town (part of)	516		
Geneva Town	1,140	1,076	748
Washington Township (including Decatur City)	5,824	5,553	4,725
Decatur City, Ward 1	1,505		
Ward 2	1,348		
Ward 3	1,618 4,471	4,142	3,142

Increase in Property Value, 1886-1916

According to the figures collected by the assessors thirty years ago the total value of the land in Adams County was $2,201,685; value of improvements, $766,818; value of lots, $176,050; improvements, $269,900; personal property, $1,477,754. Total value of all taxable property, $4,892,207. The foregoing were the figures for 1886.

The statistics for 1916, published in January, 1917, were as follows, the "real estate" including both country lands and corporation lots; the "corporation property" in the second column refers to railroads, telephones, etc. The record is by townships, towns and the City of Decatur:

Townships—	Net Value Real Estate	Personal Corporation Property	Net Value of Taxables
Union	$ 586,075	$ 202,900	$ 788,975
Root	964,005	683,765	1,647,770
Preble	628,580	598,410	1,226,990
Kirkland	623,095	524,620	1,147,715
Washington	930,170	743,340	1,673,510
St. Mary's	598,795	572,490	1,171,285
Blue Creek	557,550	258,985	816,535
Monroe	905,995	553,880	1,459,875
French	601,710	287,285	888,995
Hartford	619,755	390,305	1,010,060
Wabash	830,615	431,285	1,261,900
Jefferson	527,770	259,855	787,625
City of Decatur	1,353,095	864,870	2,217,965
Town of Monroe	54,665	98,975	153,640
Town of Berne	294,435	535,555	829,990
Town of Geneva	224,840	196,675	421,515
	$10,301,150	$7,203,195	$17,504,345

The value of steam and electric railway property, as shown by the assessors' figures for 1916, $11,881.45; value of telegraph and telephone property, $601,285; value of express property, $11,005.

Taxes of the County (1916)

The total taxes of the county, including delinquents for 1916, were as follows: Union Township, $20,839.37; Root, $39,920.77; Preble, $30,878.18; Kirkland, $26,750.43; Washington, $49,337.60; St. Mary's, $30,679.69; Blue Creek, $24,994.51; Monroe, $40,519.42; French, $20,907.49; Hartford, $27,296.42; Wabash, $35,241.93; Jefferson, $22,946.60; City of Decatur, $118,991.89; Town of Monroe, $5,424.12; Town of Berne, $31,413.37; Town of Geneva, $21,460.63. Total, $547,602.42.

The taxes levied for the repair of gravel roads amounted to $348,833.64; for bonds and interest on same account, $139,026.25.

Division of Farm Lands

As to the farm lands of the county, the assessors found that in 1916 nearly 190,000 acres were leased or rented; that 36,929 com-

Modern Farming Scenes

prised pasture lands and only 20,305 timber lands. These divisions by townships were as follows:

Townships—	Land Leased or Rented	Pasture	Timber
Union	13,693	1,843	1,560
Root	21,295	4,713	2,226
Preble	14,718	2,513	2,373
Kirkland	13,863	1,838	1,540
Washington	21,082	3,994	1,996
St. Mary's	13,293	2,520	1,072
Blue Creek	15,243	3,112	1,279
Monroe	13,789	2,122	1,205
French	15,465	3,408	1,318
Hartford	13,325	2,586	1,540
Wabash	19,091	4,792	2,550
Jefferson	14,764	3,488	1,646
Totals	189,621	36,929	20,305

Changes in Standard Crops and Live Stock

In the production of the standard crops and the wealth of the chief varieties of live stock, several radical changes have occurred within the past thirty years. Wheat, which was then one of the principal cereals, is now a small crop in comparison with corn and oats. The total production of timothy has not greatly increased, but the yield per acre appears to have been larger in the earlier period. Hogs have held their own all these years, sheep have almost disappeared and cattle and horses show a marked increase. The agricultural and live stock wealth of the county in 1916 is thus represented:

	—Corn—		—Oats—		—Timothy—	
Townships—	Acres	Bushels	Acres	Bushels	Acres	Tons
Union	3,384	123,195	2,357	54,474	2,265	2,656
Root	4,113	151,898	3,180	78,670	3,060	3,200
Preble	2,985	92,550	2,016	48,460	1,671	2,115
Kirkland	3,459	137,050	2,475	58,975	2,615	3,422
Washington	5,645	202,130	3,720	83,335	2,943	3,675
St. Mary's	3,004	95,055	2,146	48,577	2,019	2,429
Blue Creek	4,748	180,520	2,773	60,620	1,898	2,093
Monroe	3,929	167,615	2,715	70,835	1,411	2,619

Townships—	—Corn— Acres	Bushels	—Oats— Acres	Bushels	—Timothy— Acres	Tons
French	3,242	150,150	2,341	60,280	1,597	1,597
Hartford	3,938	113,795	2,010	46,269	2,929	3,142
Wabash	4,907	155,155	2,810	59,299	2,980	4,214
Jefferson	3,918	123,555	2,395	53,735	2,159	2,987
Totals	47,272	1,692,668	30,938	723,529	28,547	34,149

Townships—	Horses	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
Union	597	963	2,294	123
Preble	624	1,611	2,859	259
Root	861	1,815	2,463	403
Kirkland	421	707	779	24
Washington	932	1,563	3,546	442
St. Mary's	540	826	1,527	449
Blue Creek	855	981	2,786	515
French	557	1,341	1,655	198
Hartford	625	1,268	2,101	231
Wabash	1,060	1,808	2,791	479
Jefferson	983	803	1,739	508
Totals	8,055	14,686	24,540	3,611

As against the foregoing statistics may be placed the figures taken from the National Bureau of Statistics as they relate to Adams County in 1884. An acreage of about one congressional township, or, to be exact, 22,755, was planted to wheat during that year. The production of that cereal was 269,527 bushels, or about twelve bushels per acre. An area of 24,235 acres was planted to corn; production, 755,530 bushels, or over thirty per acre. Oats were raised on 10,284 acres, and the yield was 386,596 bushels, or nearly forty per acre. The acreage in timothy was 15,467, and tons of product 27,849. The timber acreage, which once virtually included the county, had, even in 1884, been reduced to 70,091. Over 12,000 acres of plowed land was reported idle, and nearly 5,000 acres as covered with blue and other wild grasses.

Early Roads

When the early influx of settlers first set toward northeastern Indiana from western and northwestern Ohio, the highways which

were put through such counties as Allen, Adams and Wells, were links which connected the Ohio and Wabash valleys with the Lake Erie region and its tributary streams, such as the St. Joseph, the Maumee and the St. Mary's. The old Piqua Road, or Wayne trace, which extended from Fort Recovery, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Indiana, was planked, in 1852-53, from the latter terminus to about a mile north of Decatur. As stated, it entered Adams County about a mile to the northwest of Willshire, Van Wert County, Ohio; passed through the

Modern Live Stock Farm

Rivare Indian Reservation in St. Mary's Township; thence extended through the northeast corner of Washington and the southwest corner of Root Township by way of the pioneer Town of Monmouth to Fort Wayne.

The Wayne Plank Road

The Wayne plank road was one of the most famous highways in northeastern Indiana, especially for the number and the quality of its hotels. It is said that "at an early day about every other house was a tavern," and this condition of affairs, so encouraging to the influx of travelers and settlers to Adams County, continued until 1865.

As time passed, however, it was found that the old plank road was

at best but a make-shift until something better (always a railroad) could be provided. The company which owned and operated it during the later years of its existence received so few tolls that the road went without repairs, and, in places, was almost impassable. The interest on its bonded debt was also allowed to lapse, and finally the property was sold under a decree of the court and was bid in by J. D. Nutman. This disposition of the road was preceded by not a few legal complications and threatened bloodshed.

Wouldn't be Forced as "John Doe"

Along this line Mr. Snow writes: "Travelers refused to pay the tolls, and a test case was brought by the arrest of a stranger in one of the taverns at Monmouth. Ezra Malloney kept the toll gate and the house. The gate was torn down and the house went up in smoke. As the story goes, along about the last days of the plank road tolls a man came riding along on horseback and the gate-keeper tried to collect tolls from him, but he passed on through and stopped at the Fleming Hotel in Monmouth. An affidavit was procured and a warrant issued and put into the hands of the local constable for his arrest. The officer located him at Ziba Dorwin's grocery, which at that time was a general loafing place for the villagers in the long fall and winter evenings. The warrant was read to the stranger as 'You are hereby directed to arrest John Doe and forthwith, etc., etc., person whose true name is unknown.' When the officer had read the warrant he reached to take hold of the man to make his arrest complete. The stranger stepped back and drew a brace of pistols and said: 'No man with a Peter Funk warrant can take me.' It is needless to say that there was a general scramble from in front of his guns. He ordered his horse and at once proceeded on his way toward Fort Wayne. No further attempt was ever made to collect tolls by process of law."

Direction of Travel Diverted

By the late '60s the region around the lower end of Lake Michigan, with Chicago as its nucleus, had developed with such rapidity that the attention and the business of the people of northeastern Indiana were directed more in that direction than toward the Lake Erie country. This fact largely determined the routes of the railroads which were built through Adams and Wells counties during the decade 1871-81.

Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad

The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad was the pioneer steam line to enter Adams County, coming up from the south by way of the old Winchester Road, retaining substantially a northerly direction, and from Decatur bending toward Fort Wayne, as did the trails and traces in the good old days. The original organization was known as the Cincinnati, Richmond & Fort Wayne Railroad, and its route was first projected through Bluffton, further to the south and west. But after the Muncie road was built through Wells County, the line was so changed that the Cincinnati, Richmond & Fort Wayne came to Decatur. The work of construction through Adams County was completed in 1871, the first regular passenger trains commencing to run on Christmas day of that year—a gift which the people of Adams County have never failed to appreciate, although it was some years before the affairs of the railroad company were solidly organized. The old company became embarrassed, as was the custom with the early concerns of that character, and in the '80s the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton, the Pennsylvania and the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad companies were jointly assuming the interest of its bonds. The last named finally assumed the entire responsibility. About that time its condition is thus described: "'The mileage of main track in the county is 24.61, assessed at $4,500 per mile, or $110,745. There are 2.93 miles of side track assessed at $2,500 per mile, or $12,305. The improvements (depots, etc.) are assessed at $2,075, making the total assessed value of the road in Adams County, $132,450. It crosses Root, Washington, Monroe, and Wabash townships, and has the stations of Monmouth, Decatur, Monroe, Berne and Geneva.

Toledo, St. Louis & Western

In 1878 a narrow gauge line was built through Adams County in a generally east-and-west direction, under the name of the Delphos, Bluffton & Kokomo Railroad. It was afterward consolidated with other lines under the title of the Toledo, Frankfort & Burlington, and later with other short roads, to form the Toledo, Cincinnati & St. Louis. This was a continuous narrow gauge line from Toledo to the Mississippi River. But the railroad did not prosper, and in 1886 was purchased by a reorganized company known as the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City. Soon afterward the tracks were widened to standard gauge. The interested townships and individuals in Adams County donated $45,000 to aid in its construction, and it has long been known

as the Toledo, St. Louis & Western. It passes through St. Mary's, Washington and Kirkland townships, in a generally northwesterly direction to Decatur and thence south-by-west. Outside the county seat, the main stations on the line are Pleasant Mills, in St. Mary's, and Peterson, in Kirkland. The Western has about twenty-four and a half miles of main track in the county. It is so popularly known as the Clover Leaf that many residents of the county are not aware that it has any other name. In fact, one of the most bitter arguments which the writer remembers to have heard within recent years was between a sturdy country woman and a country man, old residents of the county, who pluckily stood to their guns on opposite sides of an argument on the question. The lady just knew it was the Clover Leaf and had never been anything else; that it should have any other name was silly, and that ended the matter!

The Chicago & Erie Railroad

This line, which is nearer a direct east-and-west line than the Clover Leaf, crosses the northern portions of St. Mary's and Washington townships, takes a nick out of the southwest corner of Root Township and thence runs straight across the southern border of Preble Township. It was originally built as the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad in 1881-82 and received about $35,000 from the townships named. It gave the most direct connections with Chicago, and its original eastern terminus was Marion, Ohio. The main purpose of its construction was to encourage through business from Central Ohio to the lake metropolis. The Clover Leaf was also primarily a Chicago road. These two trunk lines, with the Grand Rapids & Indiana, place Adams County in close communication with Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. The Erie Road has more than fourteen miles of main track in the county, its stations being Rivare (Bobo), Decatur, Preble and Magley. The total trackage of the three railroads whch accommodate Adams County amounts to 55.74 miles.

Traction and Automobile Lines

The traction and automobile lines have so added to the transportation conveniences of Adams and Wells counties within the past decade that there is no point of any real consequence which cannot now be easily reached. Altogether, there are nearly nineteen miles of traction lines in Adams County, the Fort Wayne & Decatur Traction Company owning and operating the longest and most important line.

It runs directly to Fort Wayne, where it connects with the Fort Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction System. The Bluffton, Geneva & Celina line joins the latter at the county seat of Wells and has not been advanced beyond Geneva in Southern Adams County. Linn Grove is a station on the road. The line named has not been a profitable investment, was placed in the hands of a receiver and sold at auction in November, 1917. In addition to the traction lines named, Decatur's means of communication include an automobile 'bus line which furnished daily transportation to Bluffton, Huntington and intermediate points over one route and from Decatur to Geneva over another, through Monroe and Berne.

CHAPTER VII

THE TIMES OF LONG AGO

A Country Home of the '40s—Building the Log House—The Chimney and Fireplace—The Door and Latchstring—Interior of the Cabin—Cooking Utensils—True Hominy and Samp—Old-Style String Instruments—Suspicious "Boughten" Clothes—Variety in Dress, Then and Now—Hospitality of the Olden Time—In the Times of Barter—Peltries, Near-Money—Stuff the Stayers Were Made of—Grinding Corn by Hand—Mills and Agricultural Implements—Hog Shooting and Sticking—Pork Packing and Marketing—Fighting Fire with Fire—Eradicating the Wild Hogs—Exterminating the Wolves—Hunting Bees—After the Snakes—How You Feel with Chills and Fever—The Spelling School Thrills—More for Fun Than Music—Industrious Amusements—Saturday, a Half Holiday—A Militant Captain—Wolf and Bear Stories—Running Down Indian Horse Thieves—Overlooking the Vital Point.

Before the writer makes a business of exploiting Adams County and of methodically dissecting its various institutions and developing movements, there are certain fragmentary pictures which should be etched as background. They are not only produced as meat to place on the bones of necessary facts, but as really a feature of the history which, in no wise, could be omitted with any pretense of completeness. Modern history, especially that dealing with circumscribed areas, must depict the people and their ways as keys to their actions and their institutions. This chapter, therefore, expressly avoids method and classification; it simply is written to introduce the pioneers of Adams County as a people, with occasional mention of individuals to illustrate a special phase of their life or a special trait of character, and if they and their lives are brought to the clear comprehension of readers whose lines have not crossed this human field of history, much of the narrative covering the later periods will be more clearly comprehended and the comforts and blessings of the present more fully appreciated.

A Country Home of the '40s

The following description of a model country home in Adams County was given to John F. Snow by an old resident, as representative of the '40s: "Our house was a single-room cabin of round logs with puncheon floor and clapboard roof. At the front we had a porch. The clapboard roof was held in place by weight poles. The puncheon floor was hewed smooth on the upper side and was substantial and solid. It had a stick chimney plastered with mud, with 'nigger head'

Log Cabin of Our Ancestors

hearth and fire-place. The door hung on wooden hinges and was made of thick clapboards. Our loft had a clapboard floor, and we went up stairs on a ladder made of iron-wood poles. The openings between the logs were chinked with small pieces of wood and daubed with clay mortar. We had plenty of fresh air from above, as the clapboard floor was not very closely laid. We had two pole beds with one post each. The two back corners of the room by means of an auger hole in the logs at the side and end of the wall, made good sides and end fastenings. Over these sides smaller poles were

placed and held by linn bark tied at the ends, which made a very comfortable bed. Now, to save light and fuel and for general convenience, we arranged to have our kitchen, dining room, sitting room and parlor all in the same room, and, when the occasion demanded it, we converted this room, which was about sixteen by twenty feet in size, into a shoe shop, a corn-grating shop, a spinning and weaving room, and sometimes used it for a gun shop, spinning room and ax-handle factory. So thus the years came and went, and we enjoyed them in our simple cabin houses and were happier in our freedom than a king on his throne. Then every settler knew every man, woman and child in the neighborhood, and could count them without much trouble or figuring."

Building the Log House

After arriving and selecting a suitable location, the next move on the part of the forehanded Hoosier pioneer was to build such a log house as fell within his means and his constructive abilities. Trees of uniform size were chosen and cut into logs of the desired length, generally 12 to 15 feet, and hauled to the building site. On an appointed day the few available neighbors would assemble and have a "house-raising." Each end of every log was saddled and notched so that they would fit as closely as possible, and on the following days the proprietor would chink and daub the cabin to keep out the rain, wind and cold. The cabin had to be re-daubed every fall, as the rains would wash out much of the mortar. The usual height of the house was 7 or 8 feet. The gables were formed by shortening the logs gradually at each end of the building near the top. The roof was made by laying very straight small logs or stout poles about two and a half feet apart from gable to gable, and on these poles were laid the clapboards after the manner of shingles, showing about two and a half feet to the weather. Weight poles fastened the clapboards, and the latter were held in place by chunks of wood about 20 inches long fitted between them near the ends and called runs or knees. Clapboards were made from the best of oaks by chopping or sawing the logs into four-foot blocks, and splitting these with a frow, or a broad blade fixed at right angles to the handle.

The Chimney and Fireplace

The chimney of the cabin was made by leaving in the building a large open place in one of the walls, or by cutting one after the house

was raised, and by building on the outside from the ground up, a column of stones or sticks and mud. The fireplace thus made was sometimes large enough to receive firewood 6 to 8 feet long; the back log might be as large as a good-sized saw log. In those days the pioneer considered it a great advantage to burn up wood as rapidly as possible, as the sooner he cleared the timber from his land the more rapidly approached the day when he could cultivate his farm to advantage. So the old-time fireplace was usually a hot place even in cold weather.

The Door and the Latchstring

For a window the old settler cut out a piece of one of the wall logs about two feet long and closed the hole with greased paper, greased deer-hide, or thick green glass. If a saw was among the household belongings, a doorway was cut through one of the log walls; otherwise it would be made by shortening the logs at the proper place. The door itself was fashioned by pinning two or three wooden bars to clapboards, and was hung on wooden hinges. A wooden latch, with a catch, finished the door; the latch could be raised from the outside by pulling a leather string. For security at night this latchstring was drawn in; but for friends and neighbors, and even strangers, if the householder was of a specially sociable or confiding disposition, "the latchstring was always hanging out."

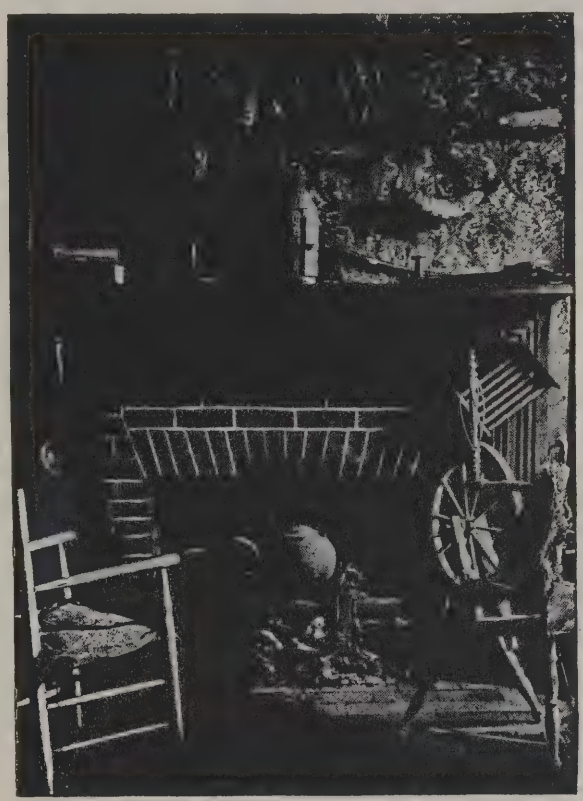
Interior of the Cabin

In the interior of the cabin over the fireplace would be a shelf called a mantle, on which stood the candlestick or lamp, some cooking and table-ware, possibly an old clock, and other articles. Well within the fireplace would be the crane, of iron or wood, on which were hung the cooking pots. Over the front door, in forked cleats, hung the rifle and powder horn, as necessary a part of the pioneer furnishings as the crane itself, as they stood for a vital item of the family provisions.

Cooking Utensils

To witness the various processes of cooking in those days would alike surprise and amuse those who have grown up since cooking-stoves and ranges came into use. Kettles were hung over the large fire, suspended with pot-hooks, iron or wooden, on the crane, or on poles, one end of which would rest upon a chair. The long-handled

frying-pan was used for cooking meat. It was either held over the blaze by hand or set down upon coals drawn out upon the hearth. This pan was also used for baking pan-cakes, also called "flap-jacks," "batter-cakes," etc. A better article for this, however, was the cast-iron spider or Dutch skillet. The best thing for baking bread in those days, and possibly even yet in these latter days, was the flat-bottomed



Old-Time Chimney Corner

bake-kettle, of greater depth, with closely-fitting cast-iron cover, and commonly known as the "Dutch oven." With coals over and under it, bread and biscuit would quickly and nicely bake. Turkey and spareribs were sometimes roasted before the fire, suspended by a string, a dish being placed underneath tc catch the drippings.

True Hominy and Samp

Hominy and samp were very much used. The hominy, however, was generally hulled corn—boiled corn from which the hull, or bran,

had been taken by hot lye; hence sometimes called "lye hominy." True hominy and samp were made of pounded corn. A popular method of making this, as well as real meal for bread, was to cut out or burn a large hole in the top of a huge stump, in the shape of a mortar, and pound the corn in this by a maul or beetle suspended on the end of a swing pole, like a well-sweep. When the samp was sufficiently pounded it was taken out, the bran floated off, and the delicious grain boiled like rice.

The chief articles of diet in early days were corn bread, hominy, or samp, venison, pork, honey, beans, pumpkin (dried pumpkin for more than half the year), turkey, prairie chicken, squirrel and some other game, with a few additional vegetables a portion of the year. Wheat bread, tea, coffee and fruit were luxuries not to be indulged in except on special occasions, as when visitors were present.

Old-Style String Instruments

Besides cooking in the manner described, the women had many other arduous duties to perform, one of the chief of which was spinning. The "big wheel" was used for spinning yarn, and the "little wheel" for spinning flax. These stringed instruments furnished the principal music of the family, and were operated by our mothers and grandmothers with great skill attained without pecuniary expense and with far less practice than is necessary for the girls of our period to acquire a skilful use of their costly and elegant instruments.

The loom was not less necessary than the wheel, though they were not needed in such great numbers. Not every house had a loom; one loom had a capacity for the needs of several families. Settlers having succeeded in spite of the wolves in raising sheep, commenced the manufacture of woolen cloth; wool was carded and made into rolls by hand cards, and the rolls were spun on the "big wheel." We still occasionally find in the houses of old settlers a wheel of this kind, sometimes used for spinning and twisting stocking yarn. They are turned with the hand, and with such velocity that it will run itself while the nimble worker, by her backward step, draws out and twists her thread nearly the whole length of the cabin.

Suspicious "Boughten" Clothes

A common article woven on the loom was linsey, or linsey-woolsey, the chain being linen and the filling woolen. This cloth was used for dresses for the women and girls. Nearly all the cloths worn by the

men were also homemade; rarely was a farmer or his son seen in a coat made of any other. If, occasionally, a young man appeared in a suit of "boughten" clothes, he was suspected of having gotten it for a particular occasion, which occurs in the life of nearly every young man.

Variety in Dress, Then and Now

Linsey, neat and fine, manufactured at home, composed generally the outside garments of the females as well as the males. The ladies had linsey colored and woven to suit their fancy. A bonnet, composed of calico, or some gay goods, was worn on the head when they were in the open air. Jewelry on the pioneer ladies was uncommon; a gold ring was an ornament not often seen.

The chronicler of to-day, looking back to the days of 1830 to 1840, and comparing them with the present, must be struck with the tendency of an almost monotonous uniformity in dress and manners that comes from the easy intercommunication afforded by steamer, railway, telegraph and newspaper. Home manufactures have been driven from the household by the lower-priced fabrics of distant mills. The Kentucky jeans, and the copperas-colored clothing of home manufacture, so familiar in the long ago, having given place to the cassimeres and cloths of noted factories. The ready-made clothing stores, like a touch of nature, made the whole world kin, and may drape the charcoal man in a dress-coat and a stovepipe hat. The prints and silks of England and France tended to give a variety of choice and an assortment of colors and shades such as the pioneer women could hardly have dreamed of.

Hospitality of the Olden Time

The traveler always found a welcome at the pioneer's cabin. It was never full. Although there might be already a guest for every puncheon, there was still "room for one more," and a wider circle would be made for the new-comer at the log fire. If the stranger was in search of land, he was doubly welcome, and his host would volunteer to show him all the "first-rate claims in this neck of the woods," going with him for days, showing the corners and advantages of every "Congress tracts," within a dozen miles of his own cabin.

To his neighbors the pioneer was equally liberal. If a deer was killed, the choicest bits were sent to his nearest neighbor, a half-dozen miles away, perhaps. When a "shoat" was butchered the same cus-

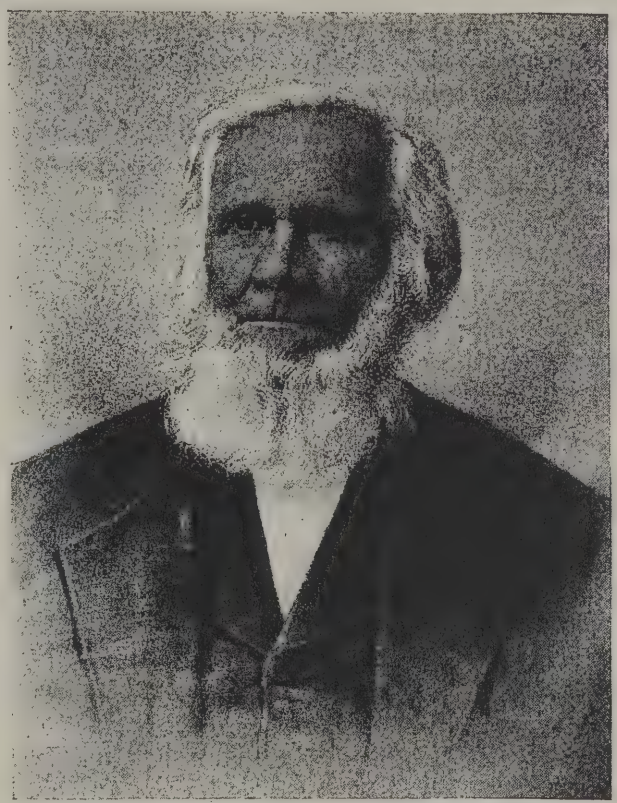
tom prevailed. If the new-comer came in too late for "cropping" the neighbors would supply his table with just the same luxuries they themselves enjoyed, and in as liberal quantity, until a crop could be raised. When a new-comer had located his claim, the neighbors for miles around would assemble at the site of the new-comer's proposed cabin and aid him in "bittin'" it up. One party with axes would cut down the trees and hew the logs; another with teams would haul the logs to the ground; another party would "raise" the cabin; while several of the old men would "rive the clapboards" for the roof. By night the little forest domicil would be up and ready for a "house-warming," which was the dedicatory occupation of the house, when music and dancing and festivity would be enjoyed at full height. The next day the new-comer would be as well situated as his neighbors.

An instance of primitive hospitable manners will be in place here. A traveling Methodist preacher arrived in a distant neighborhood to fill an appointment. The house where services were to be held did not belong to a church member, but no matter for that. Boards were raked up from all quarters with which to make temporary seats, one of the neighbors volunteering to lead off in the work, while the man of the house, with the faithful rifle on his shoulder, sallied forth in quest of meat, for this truly was a "ground-hog" case—the preacher coming and no meat in the house! The host ceased not to chase until he found the meat, in the shape of a deer; returning he sent a boy out after it, with directions on what "pint" to find it. After services, which had been listened to with rapt attention by all the audience, mine host said to his wife, "Old woman, I reckon this 'ere preacher is pretty hungry and you must get him a bite to eat." "What shall I git him?" asked the wife, who had not seen the deer; "thar's nuthin' in the house to eat." "Why, look thar," returned he; "thar's a deer, and thar's plenty of corn in the field; you git some corn and grate it while I skin the deer, and we'll have a good supper for him." It is needless to add that venison and corn bread made a supper fit for any pioneer preacher, and was thankfully eaten.

In the Times of Barter

In pioneer times the transactions of commerce were generally carried on by neighborhood exchanges. Now and then a farmer would load a flat-boat with beeswax, honey, tallow and peltries, with perhaps a few bushels of wheat or corn or a few hundred clapboards, and float down the rivers into the Ohio and thence to New Orleans, where he would exchange his produce for substantials in the shape of

groceries and a little ready money, with which he would return by some one of the two or three steamboats then running. Betimes there appeared at the best steamboat landings a number of "middle men" engaged in the "commission and forwarding" business, buying up the farmers' produce and the trophies of the chase and the trap, and sending them to the various distant markets. Their winter's accum-



Josiah Crawford, Settler of 1839

ulations would be shipped in the spring, and the manufactured goods of the far East or distant South would come back in return; and in all these transactions scarcely any money was seen or used. Goods were sold on a year's time to the farmers, and payment made from the proceeds of the ensuing crops. When the crops were sold and the merchant satisfied, the surplus was paid out in orders on the store to laboring men and to satisfy other creditors. When a day's work was done by a working man, his employer would ask, "Well, what store

do you want your order on?'' The answer being given, the order was written and always cheerfully accepted.

Money was an article little known and seldom seen among the earlier settlers. Indeed, they had but little use for it, as they could transact all their business about as well without it, on the ''barter'' system, wherein great ingenuity was sometimes displayed. When it failed in any instance, long credits contributed to the convenience of the citizens. But for taxes and postage neither the barter nor the credit system would answer, and often letters were suffered to remain a long time in the postoffice for the want of the twenty-five cents demanded by the Government. With all this high price on postage, by the way, the letter had not been brought 500 miles in a day or two, as is the case nowadays, but had probably been weeks on the route, and the mail was delivered at the pioneer's postoffice, several miles distant from his residence, only once in a week or two. All the mail would be carried by a lone horseman. Instances are related illustrating how misrepresentation would be resorted to in order to elicit the sympathies of some one who was known to have ''two bits'' (25 cents) of money with him, and procure the required governmental fee for a letter.

Peltries Near-Money

Peltries came nearer being money than anything else, as it came to be custom to estimate the value of everything in that commodity. Such an article was worth so many peltries. Even some tax collectors and postmasters were known to take peltries and exchange them for money required by the Government.

Stuff the Stayers Were Made of

When the first settlers came into the wilderness they generally supposed that their hard struggle would be principally over after the first year; but alas! they often looked for ''easier times next year'' for many years before realizing them, and then they came in so gradually as to be almost imperceptible. The sturdy pioneer thus learned to bear hardships, privation and hard living, as good soldiers do. As the facilities for making money were not great, they lived pretty well satisfied in an atmosphere of good, social, friendly feeling, and thought themselves as good as those they had left behind in the East. But among the early settlers who came to this state were many who, accustomed to the advantages of an older civilization, to churches, schools

and society, became speedily home-sick and dissatisfied. They would remain perhaps one summer, or at most two, then, selling whatever claim with its improvements they had made, would return to the older states, spreading reports of the hardships endured by the settlers here and the disadvantages which they had found, or imagined they had found in the country. These weaklings were not an unmitigated curse. The slight improvements they had made were sold to men of sterner stuff, who were the sooner able to surround themselves with the necessities of life, while their unfavorable report deterred other weaklings from coming. The men who stayed, who were willing to endure privations, belonged to a different guild; they were heroes every one,—men to whom hardships were things to be overcome, and present privations things to be endured for the sake of posterity, and they never shrank from this duty. It is to these hardy pioneers who could endure that is mainly credited the wonderful developments that have brought every section of Indiana from a wilderness to a finely developed American product.

Grinding Corn by Hand

Not the least of the hardships of the pioneers was the procuring of bread. The first settlers must be supplied at least once a year from other sources than their own lands; but the first crops, however abundant, gave only partial relief, there being no mills to grind the grain. Hence the necessity of grinding by hand-power, and many families were poorly provided with means for doing this. Another way was to grate the corn. A grater was made from a piece of tin, sometimes taken from an old, worn-out tin bucket or other vessel. It was thickly perforated, bent into a semi-circular form, rough side upward, on a board. The corn was taken in the ear, and grated before it got dry and hard. Corn, however, was eaten in various ways.

Mills and Agricultural Implements

Soon after the country became more generally settled, enterprising men were ready to embark in the milling business. Sites along the streams were selected for water-power. A person looking for a mill-site would follow up and down the stream for a desired location, and when found he would go before the authorities and secure a writ of ad quad damnum. This would enable the miller to have the adjoining land officially examined, and the amount of damage by making a dam was named. Mills being so great a public necessity, they were per-

mitted to be located upon any person's land where the miller thought the site desirable.

The agricultural implements used by the first farmers of Adams County would in this age of improvement be great curiosities. The plow used was called the "bar-share" plow; the iron point consisted of a bar of iron about two feet long, and a broad share of iron welded to it. At the extreme point was a coulter that passed through a beam 6 or 7 feet long, to which were attached handles of corresponding length. The mold-board was a wooden one split out of winding timber, or hewed into a winding shape, in order to turn the soil over.

Rustic Water Mill

Sown seed was brushed in by dragging over the ground a sapling with a bushy top. In harvesting the change is most striking. Instead of the reapers and mowers of today, the sickle and cradle were used. The grain was threshed with a flail, or trodden out by horses or oxen.

Hog Shooting and Sticking

Hogs were always dressed before they were taken to market. The farmer, if fore-handed, would call in his neighbors some bright fall or winter morning to help "kill hogs." Immense kettles of water were heated; a sled or two, covered with loose boards or plank, constituted the platform on which the hog was cleaned, and was placed near an inclined hogshead in which the scalding was done; a quilt

was thrown over the top of the latter to retain the heat; from a crotch of some convenient tree a projecting pole was rigged to hold the animals for disemboweling and thorough cleaning. When everything was arranged, the best shot of the neighborhood loaded his rifle, and the work of killing was commenced. It was considered a disgrace to make a hog "squeal" by bad shooting or by a "shoulder-stick"; that is, running the point of the butcher-knife into the shoulder instead of the cavity of the breast. As each hog fell, the "sticker" mounted him and plunged the butcher-knife, long and well sharpened, into his throat; two persons would then catch him by the hind legs, draw him up to the scalding tub, which had just been filled with boiling-hot water with a shovelful of good green wood ashes thrown in; in this the carcass was plunged and moved around a minute or so, that is, until the hair would slip off easily, then placed on the platform, where the cleaners would pitch into him with all their might and clean him as quickly as possible, with knives and other sharp-edged implements; then two stout fellows would take him up between them, and a third man to manage the "gambrel" (which was a stout stick about two feet long, sharpened at both ends, to be inserted between the muscles of the hind legs at or near the hock joint), the animal would be elevated to the pole, where the work of cleaning was finished.

Pork Packing and Marketing

After the slaughter was over and the hogs had had time to cool, such as were intended for domestic use were cut up, the lard "tried" out by the women of the household, and the surplus hogs taken to market, while the weather was cold, if possible. In those days almost every merchant had, at the rear end of his place of business, or at some convenient building, a "pork-house," and would buy the pork of his customers and of such others as would sell to him, and cut it for the market. This gave employment to a large number of hands in every village, who would cut and pack pork all winter. The hauling of all this to the river would also give employment to a large number of teams, and the manufacture of pork barrels would keep many coopers employed.

There was one feature in the method of marketing pork that made the country a paradise for the poor man in the winter time. Spare-ribs, tenderloins, pigs' heads and pigs' feet were not considered of any value, and were freely given to all who could use them. If a barrel was taken to any pork-house and salt furnished, the barrel would be filled and salted down with tenderloins and spare-ribs gratuitously.

So great in many cases was the quantity of spare-ribs, etc., to be disposed of, that they would be hauled away in wagon-loads and dumped in the woods out of town.

In those early times much wheat was marketed at 25 to 50 cents a bushel, oats the same or less, and corn 10 cents a bushel. A good young milch cow could be bought for $5 to $10, and that payable in work.

Those might truly be called "close times," yet the citizens of the country were accommodating, and but very little suffering for the actual necessities of life was ever known to exist.

Fighting Fire with Fire

Fires, set by Indians or settlers, sometimes purposely and sometimes permitted through carelessness, would visit the prairies every autumn, and sometimes the forests, either in autumn or spring, and settlers could not always succeed in defending themselves against them. Many interesting incidents are related. Often a fire was started to bewilder game, or to bare a piece of ground for the early grazing of stock the ensuing spring, and it would get away under a wind, and soon be beyond control. Violent winds would often arise and drive the flames with such rapidity that riders on the fleetest steeds could scarcely escape. On the approach of a prairie fire the farmer would immediately set about "cutting off supplies" for the flames by a "back fire." Thus, by starting a small fire near the bare ground about his premises and keeping it under control next to his property, he would burn off a strip around him and prevent the attack of the on-coming flames. A few furrows or a ditch around the farm constituted a help in the work of protection.

An original prairie of tall and exuberant grass on fire, especially at night, was a magnificent spectacle, enjoyed only by the pioneer. Here is an instance where the frontiersman, proverbially deprived of the sights and pleasures of an old community, is privileged far beyond the people of the present day in this country. One could scarcely tire of beholding the scene, as its awe-inspiring features seemed constantly to increase, and the whole panorama unceasingly changed like the dissolving views of a magic lantern, or like the aurora borealis. Language cannot convey the splendor and grandeur of such a conflagration at night.

The following graphic description of prairie fires was written by a traveler through this region in 1849: "Soon the fires began to kindle wider and rise higher from the long grass; the gentle breeze increased

to stronger currents, and soon fanned the small, flickering blaze into fierce torrent flames, which curled up and leaped along in resistless splendor; and like quickly raising the dark curtain from the luminous stage, the scenes before me were suddenly changed, as if by the magician's wand, into one boundless amphitheatre blazing from the earth to heaven and sweeping the horizon round,—columns of lurid flames sportively mounting up to the zenith, and dark clouds of crimson smoke curling away and aloft till they nearly obscured stars and moon, while the rushing, crashing sounds, like roaring cataracts mingled with distant thunders, were almost deafening; danger, death, glared all around; it screamed for victims; yet, notwithstanding the imminent peril of prairie fires, one is loth, irresolute, almost unable to withdraw or seek refuge."

Eradicating the Wild Hogs

When the earliest pioneer reached this western wilderness, game was his principal food until he had conquered a farm from the forest or prairie—rarely, then, from the latter. As the country settled game grew scarce, and by 1850 he who would live by his rifle would have had but a precarious subsistence had it not been for "wild hogs." These animals left by home-sick immigrants whom the chills or fever and ague had driven out, had strayed into the woods, and began to multiply in a wild state. The woods each fall were full of acorns, walnuts and hazelnuts, and on these hogs would grow fat and multiply at a wonderful rate in the bottoms and along the bluffs. The second and third immigration to the country found these wild hogs an unfailing source of meat supply up to that period when they had in the townships contiguous to the river became so numerous as to be an evil, breaking in herds into the farmer's corn-fields or tolling their domestic swine into their retreats, where they too became in a season as wild as those in the woods. In 1838 or 1839, in a certain township, a meeting was called of citizens of the township to take steps to get rid of wild hogs. At this meeting, which was held in the spring, the people of the township were notified to turn out en masse on a certain day and engage in the work of catching, trimming and branding wild hogs, which were to be turned loose, and the next winter were to be hunted and killed by the people of the township, the meat to be divided pro rata among the citizens of the township. This plan was fully carried into effect, two or three days being spent in the exciting work in the spring.

In the early part of the ensuing winter the settlers again turned

out, supplied at convenient points in the bottom with large kettles and barrels for scalding, and while the hunters were engaged in killing, others with horses dragged the carcasses to the scalding platforms where they were dressed; and when all that could be were killed and dressed a division was made, every farmer getting more meat than enough for his winter's supply. Like energetic measures were resorted to in other townships, so that in two or three years the breed of wild hogs became extinct.

Exterminating the Wolves

The principal wild animals found in the state by the early settlers were the deer, wolf, bear, wild-cat, fox, otter, raccoon, generally called "coon," woodchuck, or ground hog, skunk, mink, weasel muskrat, opossum, rabbit and squirrel; and the principal feathered game were the quail, prairie chicken and wild turkey. Hawks, turkey buzzards, crows, black-birds, were also very abundant. Several of these animals furnished meat for the settlers; but their principal meat did not long consist of game; pork and poultry were raised in abundance. Wolves were the most troublesome of the wild animals, being the common enemy of the sheep, and sometimes attacking other domestic animals, and even human beings. But their hideous howlings at night were so constant and terrifying that they almost seemed to do more mischief by that annoyance than by direct attack. They would keep everybody and every animal about the farmhouse awake and frightened, and set all the dogs in the neighborhood to barking. As one man described it: "Suppose six boys, having six dogs tied, whipped them all at the same time, you would hear such music as two wolves would make." To effect the destruction of these animals the county authorities offered a bounty for their scalps, and, besides, big hunts were common.

In early days more mischief was done by wolves than by any other wild animal, and no small part of their mischief consisted in their almost constant barking at night, which always seemed so menacing and frightful to the settlers. Like mosquitoes, the noise they made appeared to be about as dreadful as the real depredations they committed. The most effectual, as well as the most exciting method of ridding the country of these hateful pests was that known as the "circular wolf hunt," by which all the men and boys would turn out on an appointed day, in a kind of circle comprising many square miles of territory, with horses and dogs, and then close up toward the center of their field of operation, gathering not only wolves, but also deer

and many smaller "varmint." Five, ten or more wolves by this means would sometimes be killed in a single day. The men would be organized with as much system as a little army, every one being well posted in the meaning of every signal and the application of every rule. Guns were scarcely ever allowed to be brought on such occasions, as their use would be unavoidably dangerous. The dogs were depended on for the final slaughter. The dogs, by the way, had all to be held in check by a cord in the hands of their keepers until the final signal was given to let them loose, when away they would go to the center of battle, and a more exciting scene would follow than can be easily described.

Hunting Bees

This recreation was a peculiar one, and many a sturdy backwoodsman gloried in excelling in this art. He would carefully watch a bee as it filled itself with the sweet product of some flower or leaf-bud, and notice particularly the direction taken by it as it struck a "bee-line" for its home, which when found would be generally high up in the hollow of a tree. The tree would be marked, and in September a party would go and cut down the tree and capture the honey as quickly as they could before it wasted away through the broken walls in which it had been so carefully stowed away by the little busy bee. Several gallons would often be thus taken from a single tree, and by a very little work, and pleasant at that, the early settlers could keep themselves in honey the year round. By the time the honey was a year old, or before, it would turn white and granulate, yet be as good and healthful as when fresh. This was by some called "candied" honey.

In some districts, the resorts of bees would be so plentiful that all the available hollow trees would be occupied and many colonies of bees would be found at work in crevices in the rock and holes in the ground. A considerable quantity of honey has even been taken from such places.

After the Snakes

In pioneer times snakes were numerous, such as the rattlesnake, viper, adder, blood snake and many varieties of large blue and green snakes, milk snake, garter and water snakes, black snakes, etc., etc. If, on meeting one of these, you would retreat, they would chase you very fiercely; but if you would turn and give them battle, they would

immediately crawl away with all possible speed, hide in the grass and weeds, and wait for a "greener" customer. These really harmless snakes served to put people on their guard against the more dangerous and venomous kinds.

It was the practice of some sections of the country to turn out in companies, with spades, mattocks and crow-bars, attack the principal snake dens and slay large numbers of them. In early spring the snakes were somewhat torpid and easily captured. Scores of rattlesnakes were sometimes frightened out of a single den, which, as soon as they showed their heads through the crevices of the rocks, were dispatched, and left to be devoured by the numerous wild hogs of that day. Some of the fattest of these snakes were taken to the house and oil extracted from them, and their glittering skins were saved as specifics for rheumatism.

Another method was to so fix a heavy stick over the door of their dens, with a long grape-vine attached, that one at a distance could plug the entrance to the den when the snakes were all out sunning themselves. Then a large company of the citizens, on hand by appointment, could kill scores of the reptiles in a few minutes.

How You Feel with Chills and Fever

One of the greatest obstacles in the early settlement and prosperity of this state was the "chills and fever," "fever and ague," or "shakes," as it was variously called. It was a terror to new-comers; in the fall of the year almost everybody was afflicted with it. It was no respecter of persons; everybody looked pale and sallow as though he were frost-bitten. It was not contagious, but derived from impure water and air, which are always developed in the opening of a new country of rank soil like that of old Indiana. The impurities continue to be absorbed from day to day, and from week to week, until the whole body became saturated with them as with electricity, and then the shock came; and the shock was a regular shake, with a fixed beginning and ending, coming on in some cases each day, but generally on alternate days, with a regularity that was surprising. After the shake came the fever, and this "last estate was worse than the first." It was a burning hot fever and lasted for hours. When you had the chill you couldn't get warm, and when you had the fever you couldn't get cool. It was exceedingly awkward in this respect; indeed it was. Nor would it stop for any sort of contingency; not even a wedding in the family would stop it. It was imperative and tyrannical. When the appointed time came around, everything else had to be stopped

to attend to its demands. It didn't even have any Sundays or holidays; after the fever went down you still didn't feel much better. You felt as though you had gone through some sort of collision, threshing-machine or jarring-machine, and came out not killed, but next thing to it. You felt weak, as though you had run too far after something, and then didn't catch it. You felt languid, stupid and sore, and were down in the mouth and heel and partially raveled out. Your back was out of fix, your head ached and your appetite was crazy. Your eyes had too much white in them, your ears, especially after taking quinine, had too much roar in them, and your whole body and soul were woe-begone, disconsolate, sad, poor and good for nothing. You didn't think much of yourself, and didn't care. You didn't quite make up your mind to commit suicide, but sometimes wished some accident would happen to knock either the malady or yourself out of existence. You imagined that even the dogs looked at you with a kind of self-complacency. You thought the sun had a kind of sickly shine about it.

About this time you came to the conclusion that you would not accept the whole State of Indiana as a gift; and if you had the strength and means, you picked up Hannah and the baby, and your traps, and went back "yander" to "Old Virginny," the "Jarseys," Maryland or "Pennsylvany."

The Spelling-School Thrills

The chief public evening entertainment for the first twenty years of the Adams County pioneer was the celebrated "spelling-school." Both young people and old look forward to the next spelling-school with as much anticipation and anxiety as they afterward anticipated a general Fourth of July celebration; and when the time arrived the whole neighborhood, yea, and sometimes several neighborhoods, would flock together to the scene of the academical combat, where the excitement was often more intense than had been expected. It was far better, of course, when there was good sleighing; then the young folks would turn out in high glee and be fairly beside themselves.

When the appointed hour arrived, the usual plan of commencing battle was for two of the young people who might agree to play against each other, or who might be selected to do so by the school-teacher of the neighborhood, to "choose sides;" that is, each contestant, or "captain," as he was generally called, would choose the best speller from the assembled crowd. Each one choosing alternately, the ultimate strength of the respective parties would be about equal.

When all were chosen that could be made to serve, each side would "number," so as to ascertain whether amid the confusion one captain had more spellers than the other. In case he had, some compromise would be made by the aid of the teacher, the master of ceremonies, and then the plan of conducting the campaign, or counting the misspelled words, would be canvassed for a moment by the captains, sometimes by the aid of the teacher and others. There were many ways of conducting the contest and keeping tally. Every section of the country had several favorite methods, and all or most of these were different from what other communities had. At one time

RING IN THE SPELLING SCHOOL

they would commence spelling at the head, at another time at the foot; at one time they would "spell across," that is, the first on one side would spell the first word, then the first on the other side; next the second in the line on each side, alternately, down to the other end of each line. The question who would spell the first word was determined by the captains guessing what page the teacher would have before him in partially opened book at a distance; the captain guessing the nearest would spell the first word pronounced. When a word was missed, it would be repronounced, or passed along without re-pronouncing (as some teachers strictly followed the rule never to re-pronounce a word), until it was spelled correctly. If a speller on the opposite side finally spelled the missed word correctly, it was counted a gain of one to that side; if the word was finally corrected

by some speller on the same side on which it was originated as a missed word, it was "saved," and no tally mark was made.

Another popular method was to commence at one end of the line of spellers and go directly around, and the missed words caught up quickly and corrected by "word-catchers," appointed by the captains from among their best spellers. These word-catchers would attempt to correct all the words missed on his opponent's side, and failing to do this, the catcher on the other side would catch him up with a peculiar zest, and then there was fun.

Still another very interesting, though somewhat disorderly, method was this: Each word-catcher would go to the foot of the adversary's line, and every time he "catched" a word he would go up one, thus "turning them down" in regular spelling-class style. When one catcher in this way turned all down in the opposing side, his own party was victorious by as many as the opposing catcher was behind. This method required no slate or blackboard tally to be kept.

One turn, by either of the foregoing or other metheds, would occupy forty minutes to an hour, and by this time an intermission or recess was had, when the buzzing, crackling and hurrahing that ensued for ten or fifteen minutes were beyond description.

Coming to order again, the next style of battle to be illustrated was to "spell down," by which process it was ascertained who were the best spellers and could continue standing as a soldier the longest. But very often good spellers would inadvertently miss a word in an early stage of the contest and would have to sit down humiliated, while a comparatively poor speller would often stand till nearly or quite the last, amid the cheers of the assemblage. Sometimes the two parties first "chosen up" in the evening would re-take their places after recess, so that by the "spelling-down" process there would virtually be another race, in another form; sometimes there would be a new "choosing-up" for the "spelling-down" contest; and sometimes the spelling-down would be conducted without any party lines being made. It would occasionally happen that two or three very good spellers would retain the floor so long that the exercise would become monotonous, when a few outlandish words like "chevaux-de-frise," "ompompanoosuc" or "baugh-naugh-claughber," as they used to spell it sometimes, would create a little ripple of excitement to close with. Sometimes these words would decide the contest, but generally when two or three good spellers kept the floor until the exercise became monotonous, the teacher would declare the race closed and the standing spellers acquitted with a "drawn game."

The audience dismissed, the next thing was to "go home," very

often by a round-about way, "a-sleighing with the girls," which, of course, was with many the most interesting part of the evening's performances; sometimes, however, too rough to be commended, as the boys were often inclined to be somewhat rowdyish.

More for Fun than Music

Next to the night spelling-school the singing-school was an occasion of much jollity, wherein it was difficult for the average singing-master to preserve order, as many went more for fun than for music. This species of evening entertainment, in its introduction to the West, was later than the spelling-school, and served, as it were, as the second step toward the more modern civilization. Good sleighing weather was, of course, almost a necessity for the success of these schools, but how many of them have been prevented by mud and rain! Perhaps a greater part of the time from November to April the roads would be muddy and often half-frozen, which would have a very dampening and freezing effect upon the souls, as well as the bodies of the young people who longed for a good time on such occasions.

The old-time method of conducting singing-school was also somewhat different from that of modern times. It was more plodding and heavy, the attention being kept upon the simplest rudiments, as the names of the notes on the staff, and their pitch, and beating time, while comparatively little attention was given to expression and light, gleeful music. The very earliest scale introduced in the West was from the South, and the notes, from their peculiar shape, were denominated "patent" or "buckwheat" notes. They were four, of which the round one was called sol, the square one la, the triangular one fa, and the "diamond-shaped" one mi, pronounced me, and the diatonic scale or "gamut" as it was called then, ran thus: fa, sol, la, fa, sol, la, mi, fa. The part of a tune nowadays called "treble," or "soprano," was then called "tenor"; the part now called "tenor" was called "treble," and what is now "alto" was then "counter," and when sung according to the oldest rule, was sung by a female an octave higher than marked, and still on the "chest register." The "old" "Missouri Harmony" and Mason's "Sacred Harp" were the principal books used with this style of musical notation.

In 1850 the "round-note" system began to "come around," being introduced by the Yankee singing-master. The scale was do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si, do; and for many years thereafter there was much more do-re-mi-ing than is practiced at the present day, when a mu-

"JOHNNY APPLESEED."

sical instrument is always under the hand. The "Carmina Sacra" was the pioneer round-note book, in which the tunes partook more of German or Puritan character, and was generally regarded by the old folks as being far more spiritless than the old "Pisgah," "Fiducia," "Tender Thought," "New Durham," "Windsor," "Mount Zion," "Devotion," etc., of the old "Missouri Harmony" and tradition.

Industrious Amusements

The history of pioneer life generally presents the dark side of the picture; but the toils and privations of the early settlers were not a series of unmitigated sufferings. No; for while the fathers and mothers toiled hard, they were not averse to a little relaxation, and had their seasons of fun and enjoyment. They contrived to do something to break the monotony of their daily life and furnish them a good, hearty laugh. Among the more general forms of amusements were the "quilting bee," "corn-husking," "apple-paring," "log-rolling," and "house-raising." Young readers will doubtless be interested in a description of these forms of amusement, when labor was made to afford fun and enjoyment to all participating. The "quilting-bee," as its name implies, was when the industrious qualities of the busy little insect that "improves each shining hour" were exemplified in the manufacture of quilts for the household. In the afternoon ladies for miles around gathered at an appointed place, and while their tongues would not cease to play, the hands were as busily engaged in making the quilt; and desire was always manifested to get it out as quickly as possible, for then the fun would begin. In the evening the gentlemen came, and the hours would then pass swiftly in playing games or dancing. "Corn-huskings" were when both sexes united in the work. They usually assembled in a large barn, which was arranged for the occasion; and when each gentleman had selected a lady partner the husking began. When a lady found a red ear she was entitled to a kiss from every gentleman present; when a gentleman found one he was allowed to kiss every lady present. After the corn was all husked a good supper was served; then the "old folks" would leave, and the remainder of the evening was spent in the dancing and in having a general good time. The recreation afforded to the young people on the annual recurrence of these festive occasions was as highly enjoyed, and quite as innocent, as the amusements of the present boasted age of refinement and culture.

Saturday a Half-Holiday

The amusements of the pioneers were peculiar to themeslves—Saturday afternoon was a holiday in which no man was expected to work. A load of produce might be taken to "town" for sale or traffic without violence to custom, but no more serious labor could be tolerated. When on Saturday afternoon the town was reached, "fun commenced." Had two neighbors business to transact, here it was done. Horses were "swapped," difficulties settled, and free fights indulged in. Blue and red ribbons were not worn in those days, and whisky was as free as water; 12½ cents would buy a quart, and 35 or 40 cents a gallon, and at such prices enormous quantities were consumed. Go to any town in the county and ask the first pioneer you meet, and he would tell you of notable Saturday afternoon fights, either of which to-day would fill a column of the Police News, with elaborate engravings to match.

A Militant Captain

In the days of muster and military drill (say 1846) the following scene is said to have been laid not a hundred miles from Adams County: The Captain was a stout-built, muscular man, who stood six feet four in his boots, and weighed over 200 pounds; when dressed in his uniform, a blue hunting-shirt fastened with a wide red sash, with epaulettes on each shoulder, his large sword fastened by his side, and tall plume waving in the wind, he looked like another William Wallace, or Roderick Dhu, unsheathing his claymore in defense of his country. His company consisted of about seventy men, who had reluctantly turned out to muster to avoid paying a fine; some with guns, some with sticks, and others carrying corn-stalks. The Captain, who had but recently been elected, understood his business better than his men supposed he did. He intended to give them a thorough drilling and show them that he understood the maneuvers of the military art as well as he did farming and hog hunting, the latter of which was one of his favorite amusements. After forming a hollow square, marching and counter-marching, and putting them through several other evolutions, according to Scott's tactics, he commanded his men to "form a line." They partially complied, but the line was crooked. He took his sword and passed it along in front of his men, straightening the line. By the time he passed from one end of the line to the other, on casting his eye back, he discovered that the line presented a zig-zag and unmilitary appearance. Some of the men

were leaning on their guns, some on their sticks a yard in advance of the line, and others as far in the rear. The Captain's dander arose; he threw his cocked hat, feather and all, on the ground, took off his red sash and hunting-shirt and threw them, with his sword, upon his hat; he then rolled up his sleeves and shouted with the voice of a stentor, "Gentlemen, form a line and keep it, or I'll thrash the whole company." Instantly the whole line was straight as an arrow. The Captain was satisfied, put on his clothes again, and never had any more trouble in drilling his company.

Wolf and Bear Stories

The early residents of this part of the country tell us that the wolves gave them more trouble and were more dangerous than any other wild animals in the country. Abraham Studabaker related an incident in which he was an actor that shows how nearly he was killed when a child of about fourteen years of age. He was sent up to "Dismal" creek to hunt the cows one day in June and was returning home somewhere to the east of the present residence of Christian Burghalter, when he heard the leaves rattling a few rods away from him, and upon looking in that direction he saw a large gray wolf going seemingly in the same direction that he was traveling. The wolf was evidently following him and was hungry, as he could see its tongue occasionally passed out over the end of its nose. He sprung to the nearest sapling, which was nearly too small to keep him out of the wolf's reach. He climbed up as far as he could but the tree began to bend over with his weight. As soon as he started for the tree the wolf started after him, and he barely got out of its reach. It would go back from the tree, run and jump up and snap at him. But he was just beyond its reach. He said if ever a boy yelled it was he, but his yelling did him no good, as no one came to his assistance. After numerous efforts to reach him by jumping, the wolf ran rapidly away, a hundred yards or more, and got behind a large elm tree and would put its head just past the tree to watch him. This ordeal lasted for about two hours or more, when it returned and again tried to reach him by jumping. This time it became discouraged and ran away out of sight to the southwest. When clear beyond his view he got down and ran home. His story was related to his father, who at once returned with him to see the place where the wolf had treed him. When nearing the spot they saw the wolf trailing around in a circle about the tree, but upon their approach it soon ran away.

Another incident is related in which Mrs. Jacob Closs was lost

and was attacked by the wolves. She was the mother of Mrs. Jesse Niblick, of Decatur. Her husband was at work southeast of Decatur and one afternoon she went out to see him. She expected to soon return home and left her little babe in charge of one of the older children. Along in the middle of the afternoon she started home, but missed her way. Instead of going north, she went west, and when night overtook her the wolves began to howl in all directions. They came nearer and nearer and she could easily hear the running in the leaves. She selected a young tree or sapling with some good-sized limbs that she could hold on to and climbed up beyond the reach of the wolves. They closed in upon her and sat upon the ground and howled. She heard some men chopping and hallooed as loud as she could. The men stopped and she hallooed again. They then came to her relief with hickory bark torches. They helped her to find her way home. They were coon hunters that chanced to be in that part of the country. When she was found she was near Grim's prairie, just the other side of where the present Town of Peterson is located. On her return home she found that her neighbors were out hunting for her and her little babe was using its utmost energy to find its mother.

Robert Simison relates an incident of an easterner who came with a hunting party to Fort Recovery when he was at home with his father. North of Fort Recovery there was some fallen timber on some low lands. This was a favorable haunt for bear. It is the custom of the bear to make their winter quarters in a thicket as near some fallen tree as convenient. They would build on the ground and carry dry grass, leaves and small branches of trees and make a covering over the nest, leaving it hollow inside. Those nests were frequently a fair-sized brush heap, but always built in about the same manner and readily recognized by the experienced hunter. When completed the bear would crawl into the nest under the heap of brush and remain there throughout the winter. A certain "tenderfoot" hunter walked up along the trunk of a fallen tree and jumped over onto the top of one of these brush piles, as he supposed it to be. The bear had not yet started in for his winter's nap and sprang out and ran off at full speed. When asked why he did not shoot the bear, in much excitement he said: "Why, I didn't know that I had a gun."

Another incident in which Mr. Simison was a prominent factor is thus related: The location was on Three Mile Creek, just southwest of Buena Vista, about the year 1840. He was returning home one afternoon and saw some young hogs running almost directly toward him. On looking again, he saw that a bear was after them.

He at once climbed upon the trunk of a fallen tree near him. The hogs ran on past him, the bear following to within about twenty feet from him, when it stopped and stood on its hind feet and seemed to be looking directly at him. He knew that he had no gun, but felt badly in need of one. Somehow bruin did not like his looks and started off on a canter toward the river and was soon out of sight.

Running Down Indian Horse Thieves

In the early times of Adams County the stealing of horses, as it always has been in new countries, was a very serious offense. Indians, as well as white men, were adepts in that line of crime, and many of the pioneers were called upon to pit their wits against those of their dusky kind. Along this line, Snow says, in his history of Adams County: "There is an incident related by Robert Simison, who followed some Indian horse-thieves and secured the stolen property. The horse belonged to his brother, who lived near Fort Recovery when the horse was taken. Robert and his brother were near Fort Jefferson working in the harvest. His brother became sick and they both returned home and found that the horse had been gone for two days. Arrangements were at once made to follow the trail of the thieves and recover the horse. An ample supply of ammunition, bullets, etc., was provided and a supply of rations for several days. The brother being sick, Robert started alone. The first day's travel took him in west of where Portland is situated. A campfire showed that the Indians had stopped there. The next stop was southwest of Pennville, or Camden. The next camp was nearly a day's travel to the northwest and was on a small stream, perhaps the Mississinewa river. Here he overtook the Indians in the afternoon, perhaps about three o'clock. He could hear them talking and see some of their horses that were tied to trees in the distance. He considered it dangerous to attempt a rescue of his property alone in the daytime, so he cast about for a suitable hiding place till the darkness should shroud his movements. Such a place was found in the top of a leafy elm tree that had recently been blown down. He had hardly secreted himself among the leafy boughs when he saw his horse coming into camp ridden by an Indian, who was carrying a deer on before him. At that time there was an unwritten law that permitted the killing of the thief if found with the stolen property, especially so if it was slaves, horses or cattle. Mr. Simison says he could easily have shot the Indian off the horse, but chose to resort to other means of securing the stolen animal. Said he: 'I lay in concealment until away after dark,

then crept up cautiously near their camp. They had some dogs with them and one came within a rod of me, but I was unobserved. They put a bell on my horse and tied his front legs, or feet, together with bark so he could not travel. I had no trouble in reaching him, gave him some salt and cut the bark from his feet. I then took some dry leaves and stuffed them into the bell and put it on the neck of an old pony near by. I then unstopped the bell that it might jingle as the pony moved, and in this way not arouse any suspicion should they awake at any time within the night. I led my horse a little way off and got on him and rode away as fast as I could through the woods. After a while, in the after part of the night, the moon went down and it was too dark for me to see which way to go. So I got off of the horse and waited—it seemed hours to me—until daylight came and the birds began to sing. I then started on and got home that evening. In the morning I took the horse, and went with him to Greenville and left him there. The next day I walked back to my brother's. I got there about noon and found the Indian who had been riding the horse and another Indian there, and my brother's wife getting dinner for them. As soon as I came up I noticed them looking at my feet. I had changed the moccasins that I wore when I went after the horse for the shoes I had on. This perhaps removed their suspicions from me and may have saved my life. These were Miami Indians whose reservation was near Peru, Indiana.' ''

Overlooking the Vital Point

The most successful of detectives have come to agree upon one point; that is, the invariable custom of the criminal to overlook some vital point in his efforts to perpetrate his misdeed, or to cover it when committed. A good story is told of a gang of Decatur robbers which illustrates the former statement. Sometime in the '40s, when J. D. Nutman & Company were operating a bank and drygoods store in the little village of Decatur, also lived a wealthy farmer across the river by the name of Eli Zimmerman. At that period a certain state law required a banker to always have on hand an amount of actual cash proportionate to the capital stock of the institution. As cash was scarce, that legal requirement was sometimes quite a hardship. Not so while Mr. Zimmerman lived in the neighborhood; for he was a large land owner, very thrifty, did not believe in long-time deposits in a bank, and his stock of cash could always be temporarily drawn upon when required to fulfil the letter of the law. Mr. Zimmerman kept his money in his old log house; in a crack of the wall, in a

coffee pot, an old stocking, or any other handy place or article. So it came to pass that during the years when this law was in effect Mr. Nutman frequently had occasion to call upon his neighbor across the river for a large amount of cash. The banker would deposit securities with Mr. Zimmerman and have the cash on hand to satisfy the bank examiner, and upon the departure of that official the money would be returned and the securities taken up.

But it happened upon one occasion that Mr. Zimmerman had purchased a large tract of land and made other investments. Therefore, when the banker called upon him for the ready cash it was not forthcoming, and it became necessary to go to Fort Wayne for it. In those days a stage coach ran between Decatur and Fort Wayne twice a week. The road between the two towns was lined on both sides by dense forests, broken only here and there by a few clear fields cultivated by early settlers. The northern part of the state was almost covered by a swampy wilderness known as the Haw Patch, not unlike the Limberlost region. These wilds were infested by a band of horse-thieves and other outlaws. They were supposed to follow various routes from Southern Ohio to Northern Indiana, with stations along the ways where horses and other plunder were secreted until the stolen property could be safely moved and disposed of. Decatur was said to be the headquarters of several of this gang.

Word is believed to have passed to these outlaws that Mr. Nutman had gone to Fort Wayne to obtain quite an amount of cash in anticipation of a visit from the bank examiner. At all events the coach started from Fort Wayne at about 9 o'clock in the morning and at a gloomy portion of the road about two miles north of Monmouth, as the driver was floundering through the mud of the St. Mary's bottom lands and just as he pulled up on a corduroy bridge crossing the creek, a light was flashed in his face and he was ordered to hold up his hands. At the same time a long-barreled rifle was thrust into his face and the coach was surrounded by five or six outlaws. The four or five passengers besides Mr. Nutman were ordered to climb out, hold up their hands and be searched. To the evident surprise of the robbers the only booty secured were two or three silver watches, a few dollars in silver and a little currency of small denominations. The search of Banker Nutman had been especially thorough, but he yielded no richer results than the others, although every one of his pockets had been turned inside out, the lining of his coat ripped open and his shoes taken from his feet and carefully examined. On the following day it was learned through an intimate friend that Mr. Nut-

man had placed his big bank roll in perhaps the most conspicuous article of his apparel—his elegant lofty silk tile. The obvious was so plain that the robbers entirely overlooked it. Residents freely expressed their belief as to the identity of the criminals, but they were never identified or brought to trial.

CHAPTER VIII

LEGAL AND MEDICAL

Early Local Judiciary—Didn't Like His Job—First Grand and Petit Jurors—The Circuit and Probate Courts—Pioneer Resident Lawyers—David Studabaker—James T. Merryman—James R. Bobo—Daniel D. Heller—The Associate and Probate Judges—Circuit and Common Pleas Judges—Prosecuting Attorneys—Other Early Lawyers—Charles M. and John T. France—Ten Years Ago and Now—A Legal Retrospect—Jinkinson Cleared His Man—The Country Doctor—Pioneer Resident Physicians—Leading Physicians in 1887 and 1917.

By David E. Smith

The pioneer members of the professions as represented in Adams County, especially the lawyers and doctors, were like those of other raw sections of the country. They were quite apt to be deficient in book learning, but had a natural talent for their work, or the obstacles with which they were obliged to contend speedily weaned them from it. The practitioner at the bar considered that he had a working library if possessed of half a dozen Statutes and books on Practice, and the average physician was held to be well equipped if his medicines and instruments overran his leather traveling case. Common sense, in both fields of professional work, was deemed much more necessary than any parchment from a law school or a medical college. To a certain extent the rule holds in the modern days, as a thorough technical or scientific training in either law or medicine is not now an assurance of advancement without the saving grace of sympathy, practical knowledge and sound judgment of men and circumstances.

Early Local Judiciary

Before there were any settled lawyers in Adams County, a local judiciary had to be constituted before which the people could bring any grievance which could not be compromised out of court. These

judicial bodies were represented by the justices of the peace and the associate judges of the Circuit Court. People would die, estates had to be settled, guardians appointed for minors, and other matters adjudicated, which called for the activities of a Probate Court. And such bodies were in operation before Adams County could be said to have had a Bar. The Bench preceded the Bar by several years.

The first justice of the peace to preside in what is now Adams County was Samuel L. Rugg, and he was elected over Esaias Dailey in 1833, when Root Township (which became Adams County) was attached to Allen.

Mr. Rugg, who eventually went to the Legislature and served as state superintendent of public instruction, was far above the caliber of the early justices of the peace, although he had sprung from the ranks of the mechanics and was entirely self-educated. Joseph Martin, who settled in what is now Hart Township in 1837, the year after county organization, was the first justice of that section, and Thomas Watson, an Englishman, the first constable.

Didn't Like His Job

The first case requiring Constable Watson's services was also his last. A civil action came before 'Squire Martin and to carry out the decision of the court in the matter it was necessary that Mr. Watson levy upon the property of the defendant to satisfy judgment. Accordingly, the constable went to the house of said defendant and found no one at home except the "lady of the house." When he stated his business to that dame, as he reported to the 'Squire, "The hold woman bate me with the pokin stick." The court ordered the constable to return and get some property equal in value at least to the amount of the judgment. He again gained admittance to the house, seized a clock, and retreated from the irate "hold woman," using it as a shield to ward off the blows which she was showering upon him with a stout broomstick. Constable Watson thereupon resigned and could never be induced to return to office.

First Grand and Petit Jurors

At the second day's proceedings of the first session of the County Board of Commissioners, May 10, 1836, the following eighteen men were appointed grand jurors for the fall term of the Adams Circuit Court: Joel Roe, John Ross, Sr., Michael Roe, Bail W. Butler, William Heath, Sr., Jonas Pence, Robert Smith, Jehu S. Rhea, Benjamin

S. Gorsline, Samuel Smith, William Ball, William Thatcher, William Biram, John Catterlin, Jonathan Roe, Eli Zimmerman, James Ball and Abraham Elifrits. The petit jurors (twenty-four) were: John W. Wise, Thomas Ruble, John W. Cooley, Joseph Wise, Joseph Thatcher, Peter Studabaker, Enos W. Butler, William Major, Otha Gandy, James H. Ball, Esaias Dailey, Jacob Fitzsimmons, Vachel Ball, Joshua Major, Joseph Troutner, George Wimer, Benjamin F. Blossom, Job Wolf, Joseph Hill, Jacob England, Philip Everman, Daniel Ball, Theron Harper and Zachariah Smith.

The list was virtually the same, which was drawn by the County Board in January of the following year and represented the jurors who were to serve at the spring term of the Circuit Court; it would be difficult to go far outside of that list, as it stood for substantially the citizenship of Adams County in 1836-37.

The Circuit and Probate Courts

Little is known of the first judges who presided over the Circuit Court, as they were "foreigners," most of the cases—which were few indeed, in the very early times—being tried or settled out of court by the associate judges. The court had been organized under state laws in 1835, provision having been made for two associates; local men of character, but not necessarily of legal education, who should cooperate with the presiding judge in the adjudication of matters which especially affected their county. The Probate Court was created in the following year (1836), and these bodies were therefore already made when Adams County was organized. In 1852, under the new constitution, the Probate Court was abolished and its business transferred to the Court of Common Pleas. That body was legislated out of existence in 1873, since which year the Circuit Court has had almost the sole responsibility of guarding the scales of justice in Adams County.

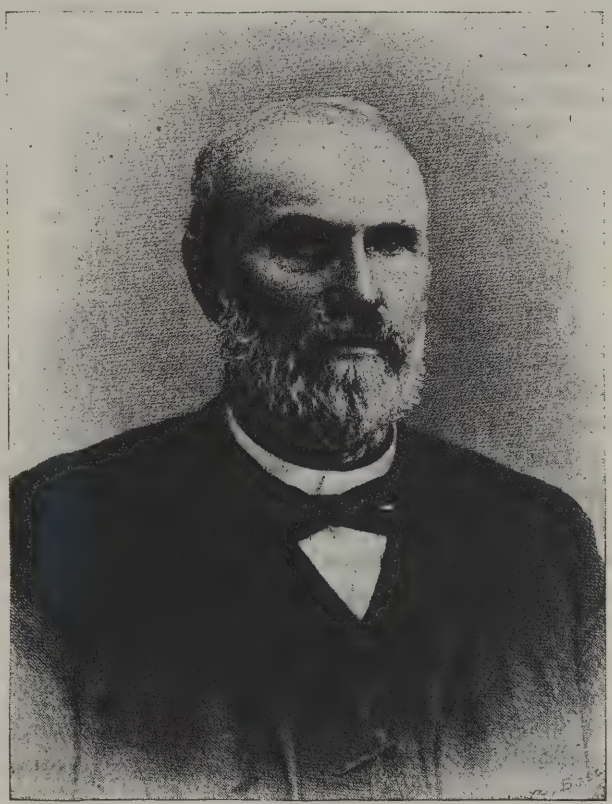
During the early years of the county's history lawyers frequently came to practice at Decatur from Fort Wayne, and later from Bluffton and Portland, Jay County. They followed the circuit and picked up any crumbs of business which might be gathered.

Pioneer Resident Lawyers

Beatty McClellan may be called the first resident lawyer of Adams County; but he only remained a few months. He came to Decatur from Greene County, Ohio, and taught school as well as took what law practice he could find; but even both fields did not yield him

enough for a livelihood, and he soon departed for the older and more settled town of Winchester, Randolph County.

William A. Bugh and William W. Corson located at Decatur in 1848 and left in 1851. They appeared to have been lively young men, for during the few years of their stay in the community they were elected to the office of prosecuting attorney, and Mr. Bugh was a can-



David Studabaker

didate for the Legislature. He moved to Wisconsin and Mr. Corson returned to Fort Wayne.

W. G. Spencer practiced law from 1849 to 1860, then was elected county auditor for two terms of four years each. Afterward he engaged in the hardware business.

David Studabaker

David Studabaker studied law with Judge Jacob Haynes, of Portland, and in June, 1852, chose Decatur as his first location for practice.

He practiced continuously for thirty-one years, longer than any other attorney. During that period he was associated with James R. Bobo and John P. Quinn, both of whom were formerly students in his office. In 1852 he was elected prosecuting attorney for the district comprising Adams and Allen counties, serving as such two years; in 1854 was chosen a member of the Legislative House of Representatives for Adams County, and re-elected in 1856. He represented the district comprising Adams, Allen, Huntington and Wells counties in the State Senate for the session commencing 1868, and in the following year became identified with the building of the Cincinnati, Richmond & Fort Wayne Railroad (the forerunner of the Grand Rapids & Indiana). The last years of his life were mainly devoted to banking, and he was for a long time president of the Adams County Bank.

James R. Bobo

James R. Bobo, who served as circuit judge in 1876-88, lived in Adams County from boyhood until his death at the age of sixty-two. In 1860, after having studied for two years in the law office of David Studabaker, he was admitted to the bar of the Adams Circuit Court. The county board chose him school examiner in 1862 and he held that position four years, when he resigned to serve as a representative in the lower house of the State Legislature. In 1870 he was elected to the upper house, and in 1876 commenced his twelve years of service as circuit judge. His death occurred on June 4, 1901.

Daniel D. Heller

Daniel D. Heller was admitted to the bar three years after Judge Bobo. He located first at Millersburg, Ohio, but located at Decatur in 1867, and there he has since resided—for a large portion of the fifty years in active practice. In 1872 he was appointed school examiner and by the act of the Legislature of 1873, which created the office of county superintendent, was made the first to hold that office in Adams County. But his eloquence and general ability as an advocate and a lawyer had won him such a practice in 1874 that he resigned the superintendency to devote all his time to the practice. He was elected mayor of Decatur in 1885 and served as such until 1888, when he was nominated for the circuit judgeship, and, like his predecessor, Judge Bobo, served with credit for twelve years. He then formed a partnership with H. B. Heller, his son, who was prosecuting attorney of the Twenty-sixth Judicial Circuit in 1906-13.

It was during Judge Heller's term of office as circuit judge that the first regular court reporter was employed. Miss Adda Snow was the first incumbent of that office and held it for eight years.

Richard K. Erwin

Richard Kenney Erwin, who succeeded Judge Heller on the Circuit Bench in 1900, was born in Adams County (Union Township), July 11, 1860, one of ten children and the second of six sons. He reached the period of his youth on the old homestead farm, but as his district school education had been supplemented by a short course at the M. E. College at Fort Wayne he commenced to teach before he was twenty. After a short experience in that line in Allen County, he returned to Adams and taught for six years in his home county—that is, during the months when his time was not taken with farm duties. In 1886, after serving a short time as justice of the peace, he began the study of law in the office of France & Merryman, and was admitted to the bar at Decatur in the spring of 1887. He at once engaged in practice and the solid standing which he earned as a lawyer caused his elevation to the bench as Judge Heller's successor.

James T. Merryman

James T. Merryman, the predecessor of Judge David E. Smith on the Adams Circuit Bench, has been a prominent practitioner and citizen of Decatur for nearly forty years. He is a native of Washington Township and is therefore doubly entitled to a record in this chapter. When a young man he served as deputy clerk of the Circuit Court and as deputy sheriff, and afterward had a short banking experience prior to the study of the law. In 1881 he took up the active practice of his profession and in the following year was elected the first mayor of Decatur. Judge Merryman formed professional partnerships with such members of the bar as Edgar N. Wicks, William J. Vesey, John T. France and Jesse C. Sutton. He was elected judge of the Twenty-sixth Judicial Circuit in November, 1906, and during his term of service acquitted himself with his customary ability.

The Associate and Probate Judges

The associate judges of the Circuit Court who served Adams County were as follows: William Elzey and T. Hooper, 1838-42; John K. Evans and Ezekiel Hooper, 1842-49; William Stockham and E. A. Bunner, 1849-51.

The probate judges were: Jacob Barks, 1837; James Crabs, 1839; Robert D. Tisdale, 1840; Joseph Martin, 1841; Alvin Randall, 1842; David Showers, 1849-51.

Circuit and Common Pleas Judges

Among the best known who have served the Circuit and Common Pleas Courts in Adams County are the following: E. A. McMahan, Circuit, and James W. Borden, Common Pleas, 1852; Joseph S. France, Common Pleas, 1859; David Studabaker, Common Pleas, 1868; J. M. Hayes, Common Pleas, 1869; Robert Lowery, Circuit, 1870. Judge Lowery was on the Circuit Bench when the Common Pleas Court was abolished, and his successors have been as follows: J. R. Bobo, 1876; D. D. Heller, 1889; R. K. Erwin, 1900; J. T. Merryman, 1906; David E. Smith, 1912.

Prosecuting Attorneys

The prosecuting attorneys of Adams County have been as follows: R. J. Dawson, 1843; E. A. McMahon, 1845; William A. Bugh, 1848; William W. Corson, 1849; James B. Simcoke, 1851; John McConnell, 1852; James L. Worden, 1853; E. R. Wilson, 1854; W. G. Spencer, 1855; William Smith, 1857; J. H. Shell, 1858; W. S. Smith, 1860; James H. Shell, 1862; B. F. Ibaugh (for Common Pleas Court) and Joseph W. Dailey (for Circuit Court), 1868; J. R. Bittenger (Common Pleas), 1872. The Common Pleas Court was abolished in 1873 and since that year the duties of the prosecuting attorney have been confined to the Circuit Court. The incumbents of the office since have been as follows: J. W. Dailey, 1874; Joshua Bishop, 1876; L. I. Baker, 1878; John T. France, 1880; E. G. Vaughn, 1884; Richard Hartford, 1888; George T. Whittaker, 1890; Richard Hartford, 1892; David E. Smith, 1896; John C. Moran, 1900; Henry B. Heller, 1906; J. Fred Fruchte, 1914—

Other Early Lawyers

As stated, James R. Bobo studied law in Judge Studabaker's office. He commenced the practice of his profession at Decatur in 1860 and devoted himself to it continuously until 1877. He then assumed the office of circuit judge, to which he had been elected in the preceding year and served two full terms of six years each. Judge Bobo had already served in both houses of the Legislature and was always con-

sidered among the ablest and most honored members of either the bench or bar.

Forty years ago the following was recorded: "Robert S. Peterson, the oldest attorney now regularly devoted to the profession, who read law with Mr. Studabaker; John T. France, Daniel D. Heller, E. A. Huffman, Paul G. Hooper, J. T. Merryman, Elias G. Coverdale, Jay Dorwin, John T. Bailey, Judson W. Teeple, Clark J. Lutz, L. C. Devoss, J. F. Mann, J. E. Thomas, Philip L. Andrews and J. Fred France—all of Decatur. At Geneva, in the south part of the county, is P. B. Manley and William Drew."

Charles M. and John T. France

The Frances, father and son, were both early practitioners at Decatur. Charles M. France, the elder, a Vermonter, came to Adams County as a young man, and after engaging in farming operations for a number of years read law, was admitted to the bar and in 1868 commenced practice at Decatur. He was associated with his son, John T., for several years before he moved to Bluffton (1879).

John T. France was reared and educated in Decatur. For a time after graduating from the high school he taught school, then studied law in his father's office, was admitted to the bar in 1875 and at once began practice as a member of the firm France, Miller & France. The partnership afterward became France & Son, and after the senior member moved to Bluffton John T. associated himself in practice with several well known members of the local bar; among them, with J. T. Merryman. In 1876-77 he had served as deputy prosecuting attorney under Joshua Bishop, of Jay County, and in the fall of 1880 was elected prosecuting attorney of the Twenty-sixth Judicial Circuit comprising the counties of Adams, Jay and Wells. In 1882 he was re-elected for a second term. During his service as prosecuting attorney he tried several murder cases, perhaps the most noted being that of 1883, entitled the State vs. Fred Richards and Charles Werst. Both defendants were found guilty and sent to the penitentiary. After a long and wearing trial in one of the defalcation suits against the ex-county treasurer, he had a physical collapse which resulted in his death, November 12, 1899, at the comparatively early age of forty-six years.

Ten Years Ago and Now

In 1907 Robert S. Peterson, the veteran attorney of the county, was still living, although he had practically discontinued active work.

At that time Judson W. Teeple, Clark J. Lutz, Shaffer Peterson, Paul G. Hooper and D. D. Heller had been engaged in practice at Decatur for more than twenty-five years. Others of the old practitioners had died or moved away. Among the deceased were Jeremiah Manley, John Bailey, Elias Coverdale, E. A. Huffman and David Studabaker. Those who resided in other localities: C. M. France, at Van Wert, Ohio; J. F. Mann, Anderson, Indiana; J. E. Thomas, Cardwell, Missouri; J. Fred France, Huntington, Indiana; P. B. Manly, Marion, Indiana; P. L. Andrews, identified with the Decatur Journal (now editor of the Herald).

At the present time, the leaders of the Adams County Bar may be named as follows. Clark J. Lutz, Paul G. Hooper, J. T. Merryman, Shaffer Peterson, John C. Manan, Dore B. Erwin, Jesse C. Sutton, Henry B. Heller, Lewis C. DeVoss, E. Bert Lenhart, R. C. Parrish, Judson W. Tuple and Fred Fruchte, all of Decatur; Francis M. Cathell, Berne; William B. Drew and Frank Armantrout, Geneva.

A Legal Retrospect

Says one of the old lawyers and residents of the county: "The requirements for an attorney-at-law in the '40s were far different from what they are now. Then but few lawyers had more books than could be carried under one arm, and some of them not of recent date. However, justice was the thing sought after then, as now. And in certain instances there was much less ceremony in procuring it.

"All the judges along in the '40s, and even later, were supposed to dress within the dignity of their office. A part of their apparel must consist of a silk hat, known as a tile or plug hat now, a silk or satin vest, tall standing white collar, doeskin pantaloons and pumps, a low, comfortable slipper. An attorney who did not properly address the Court was reprimanded, and if he entered his objections was summarily fined. The Court that attempted to hold sessions without his silk tile and other equipage was not worthy any special recognition, and an attorney was exempt from the fine or reprimand until the dignity of the court was maintained.

"One of the first cases docketed was Alexander Smith, treasurer school section 16, Township 27, Range 15 east vs. Thomas Ruble. Dismissed and costs paid. This dates from 1838.

"The first divorce case was docketed in 1849—Joseph Ross vs. Mary Ross. The case was decided against Mr. Ross, with $13.78 costs and $35 alimony. The next divorce case was Ruthanett Gillispie vs. John B. Gillispie. This is marked 'continued' and is still pending.

Jinkinson Cleared His Man

"There was rather an amusing incident in the case of the State of Indiana vs. J. C. Finley. The court then sat much as the County Board of Commissioners, the two together, but the 'dignity of the court' was 'on;' that made some difference, perhaps. Finley had been arrested on a charge of horse stealing. The Court was on the bench, but in the old court house there were no consultation rooms down on the first floor. The prisoner was brought in by the sheriff, and as all was ready for the trial he was asked to plead to the indictment. He plead 'Not guilty.' The Court asked him if he had counsel. He said that he had not. Turning to a young attorney, whose home was then at Fort Wayne, the Court said 'Jinkinson, clear that man!'

"Mr. Jinkinson then asked permission to take the prisoner just around the corner of the court house for a consultation with him, which the Court granted. When back of the court house with his client he said: 'Are you guilty of the offense as charged in the indictment?' 'Yes,' said the prisoner, 'they caught me with the goods.' 'Have you any money?' 'Yes, I have ten dollars.' 'Well, let's have it. Now you see the woods there, don't you? See how long it will take you to be through them to the Indiana state line.'

"Mr. Jinkinson paced back and forth outside the house for thirty minutes or more. The sheriff came and called from the court house door 'Jinkinson, the court is ready to go on with the trial; bring your client and come in.'

"Mr. Jinkinson walked leisurely in and took his seat. The Court inquired: 'Mr. Jinkinson, where is your client?' 'Why, your honor, I cleared him.'

"The sheriff threatened, and the Court gave each other a bewildered look, but the prisoner never returned."

The Country Doctor

The section devoted to the medical fraternity, and matters connected with his profession. is largely a collection of biographies; a grouping of honest, honorable, hard-working men, endeavoring bravely through such rude remedies as calomel, epicac and quinine, to combat fevers, malaria, pneumonia, diphtheria, and a longer and a more serious list of chronic diseases than the physician of the present has to meet, with all the sanitary precautions and appliances by which his task is lightened. In cases of confinement, broken limb or other

surgical call, the country doctor had nothing at hand but the crudest instruments, assistance and accommodations; at times, while making his long rounds through the wilds of the country, he would have to meet an emergency with no surgical instruments whatever. And despite his hard calling, which subjected him to travel at all hours and in all weathers, much of his work was pure benevolence, and he carried it through with Christian cheerfulness. Even his "pay cases" often subjected him to vexatious delays and uncertainties. In those times, as the present, moneyed citizens who could well afford to pay the doctor promptly, often placed his bill, if perchance he rendered one, at the bottom of the pile. Notwithstanding, he never wearied at his unprofitable tasks and received, as one of his rewards, a whole-souled affection which even the parson sometimes failed to earn.

Pioneer Resident Physicians

The first physician resident at Decatur was named Williams. He came from Ohio about 1837, and after a residence at the county seat of five or six years moved to Willshire, Ohio.

In 1840 William Trout arrived from Pennsylvania, and practiced in Adams County until his death in 1885; his incessant and kindly labors during that forty years made him the typical country doctor, as described above.

Pomeroy Porter settled early in the '40s and was killed as a Union soldier.

William Moore was also an early physician, and remained in practice at Decatur for many years. Afterward he moved to Iowa, but returned to the Wabash Valley and located at Bluffton.

John N. Little settled just southeast of Decatur sometime before 1850 and J. C. Champer at Monmouth, several miles north. Their practice was largely at the county seat, where they died.

Among the physicians best remembered in Adams County are the Pierces. John Pierce came from Willshire, Ohio, about 1850, and returned to that place after a practice of nearly twenty years at Decatur. Jacob Pierce was a physician there for nearly a decade and died previous to the Civil war. Thomas Pierce, a third brother, also became well known during his honorable practice at Decatur.

The census of 1850 shows that the following physicians and surgeons were then practicing in Adams County: William Trout, Alexander Porter, John P. Porter and Jacob Pierce, at Decatur; John F. Alsop, near Pleasant Mills; J. C. Champer, Monmouth; John N. Little, southeast of Decatur on what afterward became the Elmer

Johnson farm; Thomas B. Kimsey, northwest of Monmouth, in Root Township.

A little later than the foregoing came Dr. Lemuel Coverdale from Allen County, perhaps in 1855; Thomas and John Pierce, in 1858; Dr. Barton B. Snow, in 1860, to the southern banks of the Wabash where he bought land upon which was platted the Town of Ceylon, practicing in that locality for ten years and dying in 1875; Dr. James B. Snow, his brother, who located in 1862 near Buena Vista (Linn Grove), and after practicing there for some three years bought a farm near what was then Buffalo (now Geneva), where he died in 1876; Dr. William C. Vance, of New Corydon, in 1866, whose practice extended into the southern part of the county and who had served as an army surgeon; Drs. James McDowell and Dr. S. G. Ralston, 1865, and Mrs. A. G. VanCamp and John Burdg, 1868.

Leading Physicians in 1887 and 1917

In 1887 the physicians engaged in practice at Decatur were as follows: T. T. Dorwin, D. G. M. Trout, Jonas Coverdale, B. R. Freeman, C. A. Jelleff, J. S. Boyers, J. S. Mann, P. B. Thomas and H. F. Costello; at Geneva, H. M. Aspy, James Brelsford and S. G. Ralston; at Berne, W. Broadwell.

In 1918, or more than forty years after the foregoing list was compiled, the following were among the leaders in the medical and surgical profession in Adams County: Decatur—Dr. J. S. Boyers, member Indiana Board of Health; J. M. Miller, J. S. Coverdale, E. G. Coverdale, H. F. Costello, S. D. Beavers, D. D. Clark, C. S. Clark, H. E. Keller, A. D. Clark, W. E. Smith, Elizabeth Burns and C. R. Weaver (osteopath); Pleasant Mills—Dr. J. W. Vizzard; Preble—Dr. J. C. Grandstaff; Monroe—Drs. M. F. Parrish and C. C. Rayl; Berne—Doctors Franz, H. O. and D. D. Jones; Linn Grove—Doctor McKean; Geneva—Drs. O. M. Graham and M. M. Mattox; veterinary—Dr. C. V. Connell and Lieutenant Magley; dentists—Drs. Roy Archbold, J. Q. Neptune, Fred Patterson and Burt Mangold, all of Decatur; Dr. Raymond Knoff, Geneva.

CHAPTER IX

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ADAMS COUNTY

Savage and Civilized Co-Education—Fur Traders and Missionaries—Negro Slavery in Indiana—Opinions of Free Schools—Earliest Settlements—Free School System Enforced—Second Constitution—School Property—Roads, Farms and Pioneers—Parochial Schools—Graded Schools—Decatur City Schools—Linn Grove Schools—Geneva Schools—Monmouth Graded Schools—Pleasant Mills Graded School—Berne Schools—Monroe Schools—Peterson Schools—Central High Schools—Discontinued Graded Schools—Bobo, or Rivare, Graded School—Ceylon Graded Schools—The County Agent—Local School Officers—The County Superintendency.

Communicated by John F. Snow, Ex-County Superintendent of Adams County

Education, in a general sense, is an assimilation of knowledge. Any animal acquires knowledge the easiest of the things in which it is personally the most interested. Natural inherent capacity for acquiring knowledge is as different, and varied, as is the facial or physical appearance of men. When once educated, in a certain line, reflex action takes the place of reason and the individual acts, as it were, from intuition. This accounts for a man being of this or that political or religious faith, without being able to give a very good reason for his belief.

When and where did educational development begin in Indiana? Shall we say that it began when the first white man crossed the great divide between the Atlantic slope and the Mississippi Valley? Or would it be better to consider the red-savage as an educational factor in some of the lines of development commonly accredited to the white race? There is no question about the white invaders becoming educated in the use of maise—or Indian corn, and the ever present cigars and snuff, made from Indian tobacco. Not a few of the present successful farmers plant their fields of beans, potatoes, corn and squashes,

—and never consider the fact that the original seeds for planting were furnished by the American Indian. There is no denying the fact that the white race was ever ready to enlist the services of the Indians as their allies, in the prosecution and settlement of the international troubles that were begun in Europe. The Indian, though a savage with seemingly an untamable disposition, was not the worst man in the world. He was an intelligent barbarian who worshipped at the shrine of a Great Spirit, and expected a fine luxuriant hunting ground in a future existence. He was grossly superstitious, and dwelt in the traditions of his ancestors. These traditions, in time, became a ruling element of his nature; from a result of them he acted, rather than from a logical conclusion of facts.

Savage and Civilized Co-Education

Though by nature adverse to the white man's civilization, he was quick to perceive what would advance his own individual interests; he saw the steel ax and the knife used by the white trader, he knew it was superior to his flint knife or to his stone tomahawk, and was glad to accept the white man's education so far as his interests were served by the change. When the Indian saw and realized the deadly effects of the white man's rifle, he was amazed and terrified. He soon learned its workings and would give all of his possessions for a rifle. Later he was admitted to a stockade and there saw a cannon; he enquired as to its use. He was informed that "by and by" he would find out. He returned to the village and related that he had seen a "by and by" but did not know its use.

Some educators claim that all educational development is from the known to the closely related unknown. It seems that the Indian was a ready learner, for of all fire arms he soon learned to hate the effects and even the sound of a cannon.

At about the beginning of the eighteenth century the French Government fortified many of the trading posts and built stockades as a protection of their own traders and also their friendly Indian allies. In 1720, "Fort Chartres" at the trading post of Kaskaskia, was built and fortified. Father DeBeaubois, was stationed there as a parish missionary priest. In 1730, post Vincennes was made a fortified French post. In 1717, Kekionga Village, known as Post Miamis, was the principal Indian town between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes. According to French records it contained "four hundred warriors well formed and tatooed," who were Miamis and Pottawatomies.

Fur Traders and Missionaries

The fur trader, the missionary, and the adventurer, traversed these regions along the lakes and the navigable rivers first, as they were a means of transportation for their merchandise, and for better protection of themselves from the many dangers to which they were exposed. Jesuit priests filled with the novelty of adventure, and anxious to gratify such ambition and exhibit their devotion to the cause of Christianity, and a general civilization, made long inland journeys up and down the principal rivers going from village to village in pursuit of their mission. It is to them that the Saint Joseph and Saint Mary's rivers owe their names. At the headwaters of the Saint Mary's River, was a trading post known as Gerty's Town; it was so named after the noted renegade Indian scout and interpreter, who so ably helped the British in the Revolutionary war. He was also present at Saint Clair's defeat.

In 1791, at what subsequently became Fort Recovery in Ohio, between Gerty's Town—what is now known as Saint Mary's—and Post Miami was a trading post named Shayne's Crossing. It took its name from the Indian trader located there at the time Wayne's army, in 1794, crossed the river in its march into the Maumee country. Shayne was a half-breed Indian and Frenchman, who went west in 1832, with his people, at the request of the United States. A town was subsequently built at this trading post and named Shaynesville. Later its name was changed to Rockford.

Louis T. Bourie was a Frenchman, an Indian fur trader and government interpreter, who came to reside in Fort Wayne in 1817. With him came his family, one member of which was a daughter, Caroline, who was then three years old. She grew to womanhood and married Lucian P. Ferry, who was a Frenchman and an official of some prominence later in Fort Wayne's early history. When Mrs. Ferry was a mere child she attended school in one of the buildings within the stockades of the old fort; her teacher was a Baptist minister. She well remembers of supplies being carried on the Saint Mary's and Maumee rivers in long broad canoes they called pirogues. Subsequent to the death of her husband Mrs. Ferry lived for years in Decatur, with her daughter, the late Mrs. Dr. W. P. McMillen.

The French advance guards, as fur traders, or as missionaries, had far less trouble than some others who endeavored to educate and Christianize the Indians. Many of the early frontiermen had squaw wives, and their cabins in the clearing were the first evidence of French civilization. They, as pioneers, were hunters, little given to

agricultural pursuits; neither very thrifty, nor wholly followers of Indian customs. They were the connecting links between the races then in possession; they could speak several languages and were interpreters.

Much of the territory east of the Alleghanies, previous to the colonization by the whites, was occupied by the "Five Nations" or Iroquois, who, subsequent to the French and Indian war in 1754, were allies of the English. They were forced back by the westward march of civilization and were soon at war with the Miamis and their allied tribes, west of the mountains, who were friends of the French. The English offered their Indian allies a cash price for each Frenchman's scalplock. The French authorities armed the Miamis with rifles and new dangers followed each other in close succession. No settlement was safe from plunder and murder; if it escaped one roving band of savages it was only to be destroyed by their enemies. Exploration was abandoned, the fur trade was much lessened, and frontier emigration was retarded. It was not until the United States concluded the War of 1812 with Great Britain that a moderate degree of security on the frontier was secured.

Negro Slavery in Indiana

After the adoption of the Ordinance of 1787, eastern colonies formed land companies that opened large tracts on both sides of the Ohio River for settlement. Those on the north side were largely from the New England states, who were opposed to negro slavery. They also wished to seek a milder climate as homes for themselves and families. When Indiana was admitted as a state, there were large plantations in the southern part of the state. These were worked by negro slaves. An effort was made by some of the congressmen to have the conditions so changed that slavery should not be abolished; they were unsuccessful and the slave owners either removed across the river into slave territory or sold their slaves and gave up their plantations. At the adoption of the state constitution there was a vigorous opposition to the plan of organizing and conducting the free schools. The free school idea had not yet taken sufficient root to bear fruits of any value.

Opinions of Free Schools

Gen. Arthur Saint Clair was one of the first governors of Indiana Territory, and he favored the continuation of slavery. He gave as his

reason that the United States Government, on accepting the French settlers as citizens, had guaranteed to them protection of life and property; that slaves were a part of their property, and should be protected.

The slave owning element, and others, opposed the free schools and the common school system, claimed that it fostered discontent among the masses of the people, and made mean rebellious "niggers." That if education was wanted, it should be gotten at select schools and paid for by those who received it. That no valuable education could be acquired unless imparted along with religious instructions. That denominational, or church schools, were the only ones fit for the formation of correct moral training of the youth. That a general education of all of the people would place the shopkeeper and the day laborer on an equality with those of wealth, and with the land owners, in particular, who by custom and the laws of the territory only were eligible to hold office, as bestowed by the Legislature.

As settlements grew, community church organizations had their own local schools. These schools combined the rudiments of general learning with religious instructions, and, as a rule, saw very little merit or good in any other doctrines than those advanced by their own church. To those of like religious faith, whose residence was in distant settlements and were willing to pay tuition, private tutors were sent.

Earliest Settlements

The earliest settlements within the present State of Indiana, were made by the French Catholics. Their first church and school organizations were at Vincennes and date from 1749, with Father Meurin, the first local resident priest.

In Clark's grant, on the Ohio, at Charleston, the Baptists had their first church and schools in 1798. A few years earlier the great Methodist evangelist, George Whitfield, who favored slavery, shook the South with his logic and superior eloquence. Clarksville, in 1803, had its first Methodist organization and Sunday schools.

This church had its circulating Sunday school libraries, its camp meetings and its church paper, The Christian Advocate, which reached the remotest settlements. In 1806, the Presbyterians began a local church organization and schools at Vincennes. The next year, in 1807, the Friends, or Quakers, as they are commonly known, made settlements near Richmond, and had their church organization. They were bitterly opposed to negro slavery, and were active advocates of

the common schools. About forty years later, in 1847, they began the Friend's Boarding School at Whitewater, near Richmond, which subsequently became Earlham College. Earlham is now well patronized, and is one of the accredited educational institutions of the state. It was not until 1825 that Fort Wayne had sufficient interest in the common schools to demand a seminary. The Methodist Episcopal College at Fort Wayne began in 1848. Liber College near Portland was opened for students in 1853, and was very pronounced in its views on slavery.

An Allen County historian tells us that: "As early as 1820, Rev. Isaac McCoy, a missionary among the Indian tribes of this state appointed and sustained by the American Baptist Missionary Union, came to Fort Wayne and preached the gospel, as he had opportunity, to all that he could reach, and taught such children as would come to a school that he opened, as well for white people as for Indians." This is doubtless the school taught in the old fort, as spoken of by the late Mrs. Caroline Ferry.

The first actually free school within the State of Indiana was begun about the year 1815 by what was then known as the New Harmony Community. It was located at New Harmony, on the Wabash River, at the extreme southwestern part of the state. It offered equal advantages to boys and girls and advocated coeducation. It introduced the Pestalozzian system of education in the Northwest Territory. Its originators were Robert Owen and Francis Nicholas Neef. Mr. Neef was a student of Pestalozzi in Switzerland and his new ideas of education were finally utilized by many of the best teachers throughout the country. Many students who later became famous men and women, were pupils at this institution. Among them may be mentioned Fanny Wright, a noted teacher, and Admiral Farragut, one of the successful fighters in the late Civil war.

Free School System Enforced

It was not until Indiana had its second constitution, or November 1, 1851, that its free school ideas could be utilized and enforced to any great extent. Before this time property owners only were legal voters; township and town trustees had no power to levy and collect taxes without the consent of a majority of the resident citizens of the school township in which the funds so collected were to be expended. There was no state superintendent of public instruction to enforce the collection of sequestered fines and funds withheld by township, county and state officials. There were comparatively few sem-

inaries, and these chiefly derived the benefits from the school fund interest. There were pitifully few country district schools that made any pretense of being exclusively free public schools. The trustees hired the teacher as cheaply as possible. He boarded "around" among his school patrons, and finished the term frequently, with an additional month or so for which the pupils paid him tuition.

School Property

Before the new constitution of 1852 went into effect the township trustees were limited to the sum of $50 for each school district, with which to build and equip a schoolhouse. The provisions of the law were that: "Every able bodied male person of the age of twenty-one years, and upward, residing within the boundaries of such school district, shall be liable to work one day in each work, until such building may be completed, or pay the sum of thirty-seven and one half cents for every day he may so fail to work." That "in all cases such schoolhouse shall be eight feet between the floors, and at least one foot from the surface of the ground, to the first floor, and finished in a manner calculated to render comfortable the teacher and pupils, with a suitable number of seats, tables, and everything necessary for the convenience of such school, which shall be forever open for the education of all children, within the district without distinction." "Provided, that the school trustees shall always be bound to receive at cash price, in lieu of any such labor or money, as aforesaid, any plank, nails, glass, or other materials, which may be needed about the said building."

These schoolhouses were commonly made of logs, and had puncheon floors, and stone or stick chimneys, with large fireplaces, four or five feet in width, with plastered jams and inside walls.

The seats were usually puncheon benches without backs. The windows were mere openings in the side walls and had greased paper, or small glass windows to let in the light and keep out the wind and cold. When the house was finished it was numbered and named, and subsequent repairs were made when needed. From about 1855 to 1860 the first set of frame schoolhouses were built. Commonly they were sealed inside with green lumber and as a result there was no lack of fresh air. These houses were equipped with big box stoves that would burn three foot wood in chunks as large as one could lift.

The "Mud Pike" Road, south from Decatur, was one of the first of the "cut-out" roads south through the county. On this road, as you go south to the Limberlost at Buffalo, were the "Coffee School

First Log Schoolhouse in the County

House," "the Ray School House," the "Mattax School House," the "Meyers School House," the "Baker School House," and the "Bradford School House." As none of these districts were located at the one or the three-mile distances from the township lines there are now none to show that the Mud Pike Road was a principal educational thoroughfare through the county.

From the state superintendent's report of 1853 we learn that there were then but seven schoolhouses in Adams County, and only 3,300 schoolhouses within the limits of Indiana.

In 1872, the first brick schoolhouse in Adams County was built. It was located in the "Dent District," which is just east of the Belmont Stock Farm, now owned and operated by Col. Fred Reppert. This schoolhouse was built by Township Trustees John Christen, Sr., and his report shows that it cost the Township of Root the sum of $500. At this time there were thirteen log schoolhouses in Adams County, five of which were in Jefferson Township.

Roads, Farms and Pioneers

There was a mail route through Adams County from Winchester to Fort Wayne some fifty years ago. Jesse Conner was one of the first mail carriers.

This distance of some sixty miles required a five-day trip to go and return. He touched postoffices then along his route, at Poe, Monmouth, Decatur, Monroe Centre, Canoper, Limber Lost, Bloomfield, Portland, etc. In this whole line of travel possibly he would not see a half dozen frame buildings outside of the villages.

The houses were log cabins of one or two rooms; the barns, where there were any, were poles and logs. The fences were brush, poles, or rails. The fields were small, from five to ten acres each; these were full of stumps and deadened trees. The roads, which now are straight lines of travel, were then snake tracks of crookedness, in order to pass around the wet prairies and ponds that lay in the route. Then game was plentiful, and everybody had his dogs and rifle.

Log rollings and house raisings were of frequent occurrence. Every citizen-settler considered it his duty and pleasure to attend these neighborhood gatherings. The work commonly began at sunrise and pleasant rivalry enlivened the occasion. When the work was done, the rest of the day was used in such amusements as foot-racing, jumping contests, wrestling, matches, boxing, and among those so inclined, the "fisti-cuff" to determine "who is the best man" were engaged in. It is a mistake to imagine that the pioneers did not enjoy themselves,

though they were all poor. Though deprived of many of the conveniences that came later, sociability and hospitality were everywhere to be found. It matters little which district was first to have a schoolhouse, as they were all on practically the same plan. The Gorsline School in Root Township and the McHugh School in Wabash Township were both built about 1839.

Decatur's first schoolhouse was log, and stood on inlot 270, just east of the new traction station on North Second Street. It was built about 1840 and for the next decade of years was used for church, town and school purposes.

What a wonderful change in development in the last three-score of years in Adams County! The forests are gone and the stumps have been cleared away. The log cabin has disappeared and the big red barn shows where the crops are housed away. The stumpy little fields have given place to the meadow lands with their herds of fine cattle and fat horses. There now seems to be but one little hindrance to the best future results. That is an "itis" of some kind or other, that may be incurable. Everything now travels at a great rate of speed under the late and new schedules. With over 600 miles of stoned road and about 2,000 automobiles in Adams County in 1918, the country folks, as well, have become educated to like the looks of the city street lights in the evening. They come long distances to town, and return home wiser than when they come. The farmer's family may have all the advantages of city life and yet live in the country.

Parochial Schools

There are but three church organizations, at the present time, in Adams County, that conduct parochial schools in connection with their churches. They are the Amish Christian Church, in the western part of Monroe Township; the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which has three church schools in Preble Township, one in Root Township, one in Union Township and one in the city of Decatur; and the Catholic Church schools which are located in Decatur and are known as the St. Joseph's Parochial schools.

These operate under a course of study, embracing among other subjects, the rudimentary studies, as reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, etc., and also instructions in church history and catechism, and in those of graded students—drawing, music, bookkeeping, etc. It has been stated that, in general, these schools are under the immediate supervision of the pastor in charge. That he stimulates the attend-

ance by his efforts, and if he is not the teacher in charge, he uses his efforts to assist him in discipline, and the observance of church rules and regulations by the school children in attendance.

The Amish Christian Church school, in Monroe Township, has been conducted for about ten years. It is located in section 17, about equal distance from Berne and Monroe towns. Some of the influential members of this church school at its organization were Jacob J. Schwartz, Peter H. Habegger, David Mazlin, Peter Stuckey and Victor Garber. Its present enumeration is forty-five school children. Its teacher is Jacob J. Schwartz.

The Decatur Lutheran schools were begun in 1902, soon after the completion of the church building on Eleventh Street in Decatur. The school building is a convenient frame, and the school was first taught by Henry Lankenau, who was largely instrumental in its beginning here. The enrollment at the present time is seventeen pupils, three of whom live outside of Decatur. The teacher now in charge is the Rev. A. W. Henz, who is also pastor of the church here.

The St. Paul Lutheran Church School is located in southern Preble Township. It has ample school accommodations, and its organization is of more recent date than some others of this denomination within the county. It has an enrollment of forty-two pupils, and William F. Goede is its teacher.

The Zion Lutheran Church school is located in the northern part of Preble Township. This school has quite a large attendance, and is one of the oldest schools of the kind in the county. Its organization dates back to the log schoolhouse days, and its attendance is still large. Just who its first teacher really was is not stated. However, a Mr. Christopher Kirsch was one of the earliest ones. Its present school enrollment is seventy-one pupils, twelve of whom are from Allen County, and its teacher is Edward Schuricht.

The St. Peter's Lutheran Church school is located in northern Root Township, in what is sometimes known as the Fuelling neighborhood, from some of the influential citizens who at an early date began a settlement there. The school building here is a fine large brick edifice, modern in construction. In this school there is an enrollment of fifty-five school children, eleven of whom live in Allen County. Paul W. Dorn is the teacher here at this time.

The Emanuel Lutheran Church school is situated in the northwest part of Union Township, and had its beginning in about 1850. Some of the earliest members of the church, in this locality, were John H. Bleeke, and Christian F. Blakey, who came to Adams County in about 1839 or 1840. For a number of years the church membership

was small and missionary ministers would come to the Blakey neighborhood, and hold meetings in the residences of members. Rev. Frederick Wyneken was one of these first ministers; he came in 1845. Later, Andrew Fritze came as a minister and teacher and remained as a resident instructor for a number of years. After the present church building was erected, the old building was used for school purposes. The present new brick schoolhouse was erected in 1915, at a cost of about $8,500. It is modern in construction and thoroughly equipped with modern appliances. At the present, all the children of this school reside in Adams County, and the number enrolled is forty-four. Walter Gotsch is the teacher in charge.

The Saint Joseph Parochial schools are located in the City of Decatur, and are taught by the Sisters of Saint Agnes, with the local pastor as superintendent. The present system of management was begun in 1882, with the completion of the first brick schoolhouse, erected by the congregation of the Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Decatur. While there was no church building here, missionary priests came from Fort Wayne, and other points, to say mass and attend the sick. The first permanently located pastor at Fort Wayne was Rev. Louis Mueller. He began there in 1836, and Decatur was a part of the mission work assigned to him. In 1838, the first mass was said at the residence of George Fettich. Later religious instructions were given in the Closs Tavern and the old courthouse. In 1840 Rev. J. Benoit succeeded Reverend Mueller, and came to Decatur to say mass and preach in English and French. At that time there were not a dozen Catholic families in the neighborhood of Decatur.

In 1848 the first church building was ready for use; and at that time regular instructions in school subjects were begun.

In 1852 the first priest's house was built, and thereafter there was a local teacher as well as pastor here, to conduct the schools.

The brick church building was erected in 1872, and the old frame church building was used for school purposes. In 1880, Rev. H. Theodore Wilken came, as the resident priest, and remained here as such for the next succeeding number of years. In 1895, two more school rooms were added, and a sister's house was built. In 1907 several school rooms were added and other valuable improvements made. There are now seven school rooms, and four music rooms in use. In these schools at the present, are taught the eight grades, religious instructions, and one school year in music, and a two years' commercial course. The enrollment for 1918 is 273 children, of which number seventy-nine reside outside the city of Decatur.

For about the two years last past, the management of the church

affairs and the St. Joseph schools have been under the guidance of Rev. J. A. Seimetz, a man in his prime, of strong, vigorous mind and body, who is capable of doing much good in his parish and community.

It is said that he has introduced several modifications of the school's previous management, which places its teaching in the line of more modern methods of instruction.

Graded Schools

When the term "graded" was first applied to a school, or schools, in Indiana, it had more reference to the school with two or more teachers than to the separation of pupils of the school, as regards their advancement, in the subjects of study. With the first schools, classification even was difficult. There was no uniformity of text books and gradation was impossible. At the present time, all of the common schools are classified, and are working under a course of study with grades from one to eight. A test of completion of the eighth grade is made by the county diploma examinations held from printed lists of questions sent out by the State Board of Education. The county diploma admits its holder to the district and commissioned high schools without entrance examinations. The graded school course of study comprises the first year, or more, of the Commissioned High School course of study. The certificate of graduation from the Commissioned High School admits the holder to credits in the State Normal School and the Indiana University.

Decatur City Schools

With regard to the dates of their organization, a brief sketch of the ten graded schools, now in session in Adams County, is given.

About sixty years ago Decatur became an incorporated town. Previous to this time, the schools were under the control of the township trustees. In 1854 a six-room frame building was erected at the cost of about $3,000 and it occupied inlots 100, 101 and 102, where the present Central School building is now situated. The old frame building may now be seen at the corner of Second and Jefferson streets, as it is used for a seed store on lot number 45. In 1886 the Central building was erected and the school became a Commissioned High School, with G. W. A. Lucky as city superintendent. As the school population increased, ward buildings were erected in various parts of the city—the "West Ward" in 1899; the "North Ward" in 1893, and

the "South Ward" in 1896. These are all brick structures, with up-to-date modern improvements.

In 1917, inlots numbers 175, 176 and 177, at the corner of Fifth and Adams streets, were purchased and the contract let for a modern fifteen-room High School building, which, when completed, is estimated to cost about $90,000. This building is to be ready for the beginning of school in the fall of 1918.

The present board of school trustees is composed of John S. Falk, Dick Myers, and Arthur Suttles. The city school superintendent is Martin Worthman.

Linn Grove Schools

The second graded school in the county, was at the village of Buena Vista, Linn Grove, as the post office is called. In 1877 Lewis C. Miller, the trustee of Hartford Township, was petitioned to build a two-room house at Buena Vista and employ two teachers. He claimed that he had not sufficient funds to maintain such a school there. A meeting was called at which the county superintendent, William Walters, was present. An arrangement was agreed to by which the promoters of the plan subscribed a sum sufficient to build the second story and the trustee agreed to hire a second teacher. We are unable to get a list of all of those who aided in meeting the expense of the second story of the Linn Grove graded school building, but the following were among the promoters of the project: Eugene Morrow, Peter Huffman, L. L. Dunbar and a Mr. Lindsey. After the other exercises were over "Billy Walters," the county superintendent, recited some of his special selections, among which was "Sheridan's Ride," and the graded school at Buena Vista was an assured fact.

In time this small two-story frame became too small to meet the demands of the township and village. In 1892, Frederick Hoffman, then trustee, built a modern two-story four-room brick school building at Linn Grove. He employed three teachers at first and John H. Bryan was the first school principal in the new building. Amos Stauffer is now the principal in this school.

Geneva Schools

The third brick school building in the county, was built in Geneva, in 1878. It was a two-story four-room building, fairly modern and cost about $3,500.

Several years previous to this date, two or more teachers were

employed at Buffalo and the old log church was used as a school room for awhile, in conjunction with the one-room frame schoolhouse built by trustee Henry Miller to the southeast of where the present school building is located.

In 1893 the school corporation of Geneva made an addition to its school building by which several more rooms were added, and more teachers employed for the work. About 1900 the entire school building was destroyed by fire. The coming year the present commodious brick building was built at a probable cost of about $25,000. The

High School, Geneva

superintendent of the Geneva schools at the present time is A. E. Harbin.

Monmouth Graded Schools

In 1879, a two-room two-story brick school building was built in Monmouth, by trustee Perry Robinson. This was the fourth brick school building in the county, and the second one in Root Township. In 1911 this building was torn down and a new commodious modern five-room graded school building was erected by Trustee Charles Magley, at a cost of about $12,000. The present principal of the Monmouth schools is L. B. Sawyer.

Pleasant Mills Graded School

Under the direction of Trustee A. M. Fuller, the graded schools were begun in 1881. This was the fifth graded school organized in the

county. In 1907 Trustee William H. Teeple had an addition of two rooms placed to this building which for a time seemed to meet the demands of the village of Pleasant Mills and the adjacent locality.

In 1916 Trustee Erwin W. France began the erection of a commodious District High School building that will be in readiness for the fall schools of 1918. This will be one of the best and finest school buildings in the county and when completed will cost in the neighborhood of $25,000. The principal of the Pleasant Mills schools for the present school year is A. E. Downey.

Berne Schools

Within the year 1879, the township trustee of Monroe Township, Robert E. Smith, built a frame schoolhouse in the north part of the village of Berne. This was its first school building. This served its purpose until the year 1888, when the school authorities built a two-story two-room brick building in the south part of the village and employed Frank G. Haecker and Lila G. Schrock as its teachers. Within a few years it became necessary to add another school room and an assembly room on the second story. In 1909 another revision of the buildings was made, and now there are a superintendent and twelve teachers employed with ample school rooms for the accommodation of all pupils who are here in attendance. The estimated valuation of the school property at Berne is $45,000, and the present school principal is C. E. Beck.

Monroe Schools

The Monroe Township graded school building was erected in 1886, by Township Trustee Christ W. Hocker, at an estimated cost of about $3,500. It was a two-room building and fairly modern in construction. This building served the town and township for a number of years, and supplied a large number of county diploma graduates. In the year 1912, the school building was remodeled and some other rooms added. It now contains eight rooms, is modern in construction, and is under the control jointly of the Monroe Township trustee and the town school authorities of the Town of Monroe. Its present High School principal is W. H. Oliver.

Peterson Schools

In 1893, Trustee Joshua Bright built the Peterson graded school building. The first teachers in the graded school here were Joseph W.

Walker and Ella Fleming. This school building has the distinction of occupying the ground held by the last log school house in use in Kirkland Township. Since Kirkland Township has a Central High School, but one teacher is now here employed.

Central High Schools

Within the county there are two Central High School buildings erected. One is in Kirkland Township and was built in 1917 by Trustee George Haugh at a cost of about $12,000. At present it employs three teachers. O. D. Rider is principal.

There is also a Central High School building in Hartford Township, south of Buena Vista. This building was erected in 1917 by Peter Fox, township trustee of Hartford Township, at a cost of about $20,000. It employs three teachers and at the present time the principal of this school is Alfred Habegger. These buildings have an ample supply of recitation and study rooms, an assembly room each, and are modern in construction in all respects.

Discontinued Graded Schools

Washington Township graded school building was erected in 1880, by Trustee John King, and John H. Walters and Anna C. Christen were its first teachers. This school was continued for several years and finally a district school, with but one teacher, was provided for this locality.

Bobo or Rivare Graded School

In 1887 Trustee John C. Cowan built a two-story brick two-room building in the Village of Bobo, for the use of a graded school. This was the second graded school for Saint Mary's Township. It had a good attendance and there were a number of county diploma graduates from this school, but with the enlargement of the Pleasant Mills School building which is in the same township, this was made a single room school. It is now one of the "concentration" schools to which pupils are hauled in conveyances to a school of larger attendance.

Ceylon Graded Schools

The schools at Ceylon were provided with two departments in 1884, by Township Trustee LaFayette Rape, and William A. Aspy and

Adda V. Snow were its first teachers. This school for several years was one of the chief educational centers in the south part of the county; and was one of the first township graded schools in the county to establish a school library. This school was continued in operation for eight consecutive years and furnished a large number of county diploma graduates—many of whom subsequently became teachers. The transfer school law made it possible for advanced students, who could be better accommodated, to be transferred to town or city schools. The High School at Geneva offering better advantages, the graded schools at Ceylon were discontinued and a district school of one room made to take its place in 1892.

The County Agent

Education development is not limited only to the common schools or their surrounding influences. There are several lines of development through which there have been many marked changes within the last forty or fifty years in Indiana. Changes are different in the various sections of the country, owing to the environment of that particular locality.

Adams County is right in the heart of one of the most productive agricultural countries within the United States. There is not a foot of waste land within the limits of the county; not a farm without its valuable improvements. Taking the lands, the buildings, the drainage and the roads, there is no county within the state that makes a better showing, in advancement, than Adams County. The best breeds of horses, hogs, sheep and cattle that can be found anywhere are found right here in Adams County. Along in the '90s the Great Northern Indiana Fair was held near Decatur. Its stock shows were equal to the State Fair at Indianapolis those days. Farmer's Institutes have received much encouragement. They have developed into farmer's schools, with the county agent as the directing supervisor. Some of the subjects receiving his attention recently are such as "Hog Cholera: Its Cure;" "Rotation of Crops;" "Culture and Profits of Soy Beans;" "The Best Uses of Fertilizers;" "When and How to Spray Apple Trees," etc. Among some of the requirements and duties of the county agent are to aid progressive farmers and stockraisers by his special visits to investigate and give advice and practical instructions from a scientific basis, to help get the best results from the time and money expended by the farmer in his line of business.

In December, 1915, Mr. A. J. Hutchens was chosen as county agent for Adams County for one year. The following year M. H. Overton

was selected to the position and has served continuously to the present time—January 1918. This educational instruction is at the expense of the United States Department of Agriculture, working with the local authorities and the Purdue University Agricultural Extension Department. Mr. Overton's report to the National Department of Agriculture for 1917 shows that he has mailed to resident farmers over 20,000 circular letters; has written and mailed nearly 1,400 individual letters to stockraisers and rural residents; that within the year there had been 118 meetings held within the county, with a total of 6,700 persons in attendance. Some of these meetings were held at farm residences and others at public school buildings. That over 1,300 persons have called at the agent's office, which is in the county school superintendent's room, for information, advice and instructions covering their own special needs or wants. And that the agent has within the past year, made 325 farm visits to make special investigations and suggestions of the most approved methods. To perform his duties, as is required by law, he is compelled to travel all over the county and in many places. The last year's record places over 5,000 miles of travel to his credit.

Local School Officers

For nearly fifty years there were three school trustees in each township in Indiana. They examined, licensed and employed their own teachers. These were known as the Township School Board, of which one member was president, one clerk and one treasurer. Section 8, of the law of 1852, says that "Such board shall take charge of the educational affairs of the township, employ teachers and visit schools, either as a board or by one of their members, at least twice during each term thereof." School trustees were paid one dollar per day for the time actually employed in the management of the school affairs of the township. In 1861 the number was reduced to one trustee in each township with the term of office one year between elections.

Previous to 1850, each county had its county school commissioner, who was chosen by a vote of the people. His duties among others were to look after the school lands, school funds, etc. The school commissioners of Adams County were: Benjamin Blossom, 1837; Ezekiel Hooper, 1839; Edward G. Casten, 1843; John N. Little, 1846; James H. Brown, 1848, and Josiah Randall, 1850.

For the next ten years after 1850 there was a deputy state superintendent for each county. He was a medium between the state and township and county administrations, and was appointed by the state

superintendent. The deputy state superintendents were: John H. Nevious, 1852; J. D. Nutman, 1853; J. P. Porter, 1854; Josiah Crawford, 1856, and David Studabaker, 1858. In 1861 a county school examiner was appointed by the county commissioners for a term of three years. He was required by law to examine and license teachers; to visit the schools; have oversight of the collection of fines, escheats, etc., which, when recovered, went to the common school fund of the state. This law also provided for a County Board of Education composed of the county school examiner and the township school trustees.

The county school examiners were: James R. Bobo, 1862; Samuel C. Bolman, 1868; and Daniel D. Heller, May, 1872, to October, 1875. The law of 1873 made Mr. Heller the first county superintendent, as he was the school examiner at the time the change in the officer was made.

The County Superintendency

Daniel D. Heller was born and reared in Ohio, graduated from New Hagerstown Academy, came to Indiana and was the first county school superintendent of Adams County. In March, 1873, the school examiners' office was abolished, and the county school examiner, by enactment, became the county school superintendent. Visitation of the public schools was made obligatory, and for neglect of duty the county superintendent could be removed from office by the County Board of Commissioners. In October, 1875, Mr. Heller resigned and William M. Walters was chosen to fill out his unexpired term.

At that time Adams County had ninety schoolhouses all of which were log or frame, with the exception of two—the Dent school, and the Hartman school, which were brick. Decatur had a frame two-story six-room schoolhouse—the only school building with more than one room within the county. At that time there was a sentiment that the superintendent's visitation of schools was a valueless requirement. Bills were introduced in many succeeding legislatures to abolish the office of county superintendent. Instead of these measures being adopted, the superintendency was strengthened by new and needed legislation. The superintendency was made the chief local medium between the township officers and the State Board of Education.

The second county superintendent was William M. Walters, who was a former resident of Pennsylvania. He studied at the Shippenburg State Normal School of that state. He was a successful teacher, a good scholar, and quite an accomplished elocutionist. He aided in giving special instructions throughout his work as superintendent, and

assisted in a short normal term each year to better prepare the teachers for their duties in the school room. The great lack of text books was one of the chief hindrances to even a fair degree of advancement. He did what was possible to have a uniform system of school books brought into general use in the common schools of the county.

Mr. Heller and Mr. Walters are now both deceased—the former departed this life in January, 1917, and the latter in 1910. After quitting the superintendency, Mr. Heller devoted his whole attention to the law; was elected circuit judge of the Twenty-sixth Indiana Judicial District and served in that capacity for twelve years. Mr. Walters went from here to Clay Centre, Nebraska, and again took up the work of teaching. Later he was elected county treasurer. He subsequently removed to Thedford and was elected probate judge of Thomas County, a position he held for two terms.

The next county school superintendent was George W. A. Lucky, who was born and reared in Adams County, Indiana, and was an attendant at the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. He was conscientious, earnest, and very resolute in his efforts to place the schools that were under his charge in the best possible working order. One of the first effective acts of the County Board of Education, of which the county superintendent was president, was to adopt a general series of common-school text books, and to enforce their use in the common schools. Previous to this time, in almost any school district one could find a variety of text books, and in some instances there were three or four series of readers. A course of study was also adopted which when followed closely, aided greatly in classification of the school. Mr. Lucky also assisted, each year, in conducting a county normal for the advancement of those who wished to better fit themselves as teachers. Among the common school subjects then taught English grammar seemed to be the hobby of some schools.

The county superintendent devoted especial attention to this subject and there were very few important points in Clark's, Holbrook's or Harvey's grammars that were not made axioms in teachers' examinations. Mr. Lucky continued in the school work, after leaving the county superintendency, as superintendent of the Decatur city schools for four years. Subsequently he went to Nebraska and became a professor in the Nebraska State Normal School, at Omaha.

John F. Snow was the next county superintendent. He was born at Portland, Indiana, educated in the common schools, county normals and at the Ridgeville College. He began the work as county superintendent in 1883. Within his fourteen years of service, in this

capacity, the educational tide ebbed and flowed in several directions, in Indiana.

School graduation and classification attained a more satisfactory basis. Graduation from the common school course began in 1883, with twenty-one successful applicants for graduation. These passed a written examination on printed lists sent out to the county superintendents by the State Board of Education. The county diploma admitted its holder to the first-year high school class without further examination. The teacher's license law was changed in 1883, a thirty-six months' license was issued to applicants making the highest required grades, and but one six-months' license could be issued to any applicant. This change permanently separated a large number of old teachers from work in the public schools. It stimulated the young and aspiring teachers to better preparation for the teacher's work.

A few years later the subject of "success" as estimated by the teacher's record in the school, was made a part of his or her grade, in examination. The Teachers' Reading Circle, in 1885, and the Young People's Reading Circle, a little later, added new duties to the county superintendent, as he was expected to distribute the books, and hold the examinations to test the teachers' proficiency in having read them. In 1886 the Indiana School Book Company furnished all of the school books for the state. The county superintendent had the books to order, deliver and settle for. In those days there were no deputies, no time for play, and little for anything but hard work.

After the first few years, Mr. Snow discontinued taking part in the county normal, each fall, and these schools were conducted by the various graded school principals and the city superintendent at Decatur.

Among some of the matters most impressed upon the school authorities by Mr. Snow were that district school lots should be not less than one acre each of land. That none but modern brick school buildings should be erected, and that the best positions in the county should be given to those resident home teachers who had fitted themselves by the proper education to handle them.

The fifth county superintendent was Irvin Brandyberry, who was born and reared in Adams County, Indiana, and received his education in the district schools, county normals, and the Tri-State Normal School at Angola, Indiana. He became county superintendent in June, 1897, and resigned the office on the tenth day of January, 1906. Within his term of office, the subject of supplemental reading in the intermediate grades and the introduction and use of district school libraries, of which the Young People's Reading Circle books were a

part, received particular attention. A return to the neglected subject of spelling, for a time created more excitement than the basket-ball games of a few years later. Requirements were made that those who were employed to teach in the district high schools, or the city and town high schools, must have had some normal training; also that applicants for high school licenses shall have their manuscripts, made in teacher's examinations, graded by the state superintendent, or his deputy, "and that the graded school course of study be strictly followed."

In 1901, the compulsory education law went into effect. The county board of education selected the attendant officer, and it was his duty in cooperation with the other school officers of the county,—to see that all children of school age as designated by the law, shall attend some school during the whole term that such schools are in session.

Lawrence Opliger was the sixth county superintendent. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio, and attended the district and graded schools in Adams County and was an attendant at the Normal Schools at Marion and Angola, Indiana. He was elected to the county superintendency on the 15th day of January, 1906, and served until the 13th day of July, 1914. Domestic science was given a place in the course of study. The concentration of district schools was favorably considered. By concentration, the districts with small attendance were abandoned, and the children who were there enrolled were conveyed at public expense to graded schools or to those districts with larger enrollments, and better attendance. Within Mr. Opliger's term of office, several new conditions arose and some new subjects were added to the requirements of teachers. Within his term of office, the attendance at the State University and State Normal School from Adams County was increased, and many manuscripts made in teacher's examinations were sent to the state superintendent for grading. Mr. Opliger instituted the public observance of graduation of the district common school graduates, all at one time and all in one place for that school year. This was known as the County School Commencement. The plan was to secure a noted speaker to address the assembled class for that year, at Decatur, Berne, or Geneva, and announce the grades and deliver the diplomas at the time of graduation.

Byron S. King, a noted lecturer and elocutionist, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was once present, and delivered the diplomas and made the address to the graduates. At another time, the then governor of Michigan, Hon. N. C. Ferris, performed a like duty; made an earnest appeal for further development and higher education.

Ed S. Christen, the present incumbent, became county superintendent of Adams County on the 13th day of July, 1914. He was born in that county, and educated in the district schools, the State Normal School and the Indiana University. At the June, 1917, meeting of the County Board of Education he was re-elected for a term of four years. To him have come some new duties not required of his predecessors. The local district high school sentiment is asking a hearing. In answer to this demand the county superintendent must pass upon the cost, location, etc., of such buildings.

The Kirkland Township High School building was erected in 1917-18 at a cost of about $12,000. The Central High School building of Hartford Township was built within the past year at the cost of about $20,000. It is the purpose to secure as many high school commissions for the schools in Adams County the next year as possible. These last named schools may be in the list.

The State Board of Education prescribes the requirements upon which these buildings must be constructed. The actual cash value of all the property in Adams County at the present time is about $52,000,000; the assessed valuation as returned by the various school corporations is $17,350,705—which is estimated as about one-third of the actual cash value of the whole amount of property in the year 1917.

In connection with the County Board of Education, is the "Agricultural Extension Service" of Purdue University, a reference to which is heretofore made under the title of "The County Agent."

Though the county superintendent may have a deputy for certain parts of his work, the requirements of him have been so increased that all his time, and more, are required to properly conduct the business of his office.

To the foregoing very interesting and complete history of educational development in the county is added the statistical matter which gives a specific idea of the present material status of the schools, the strength of their teaching force, and various financial items. The following table was compiled by Superintendent Christen late in the fall of 1917:

Townships	Enrollment	Number of Teachers	Value of Property
Blue Creek	274	7	$ 25,000
French	192	6	8,400
Hartford	300	10	27,000
Jefferson	214	6	16,100
Kirkland	195	6	27,800
Monroe	514	17	60,000

Townships	Enrollment	Number of Teachers	Value of Property
Preble	165	4	$ 22,000
Root	191	6	13,500
St. Mary's	269	11	19,000
Union	132	5	12,000
Wabash	346	11	22,900
Washington	279	9	32,000
Berne	390	13	45,000
Geneva	304	9	27,500
Decatur	924	29	106,000
Total	4,689	149	$464,200

Various financial items taken from the superintendent's last report:

Amount on hand July 31, 1916: Townships, $21,705.26; Berne, $857.85; Geneva, $1,568.18; Decatur, $31,393.00. Total $55,524.29.

Total revenue for tuition: Townships, $83,148.23; Berne, $13,-215.81; Geneva, $9,536.24; Decatur, $28,627.94. Total, $134,528.22.

Amount of special school revenue for year ending July 31, 1917: Townships, $39,435.79; Berne, $883.94; Geneva, $2,103.67; Decatur, $65,858.01. Total, $108,281.41.

Amount expended for teaching for year ending July 31, 1917: By townships, $70,832.87; Berne, $4,278.30; Geneva, $5,718.23; Decatur, $24,008.61. Total, $104,838.01.

Amount expended for teaching for the year ending July 31, 1917: Townships, $41,472.15; Berne, $7,808.00; Geneva, $4,761.49; Decatur, $20,610.85. Total, $74,652.49.

CHAPTER X

MILITARY AND WAR MATTERS

Ante-Civil War Companies—Martial Spirit Springs Up Over-Night—First Contributions of Men—Bounties and Relief—Company C, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry—Byron H. Dent—Three Companies of the Eighty-ninth Infantry—Capt. A. J. Hill—Death of Maj. Sam Henry and Others—The Eleventh Cavalry—Norval Blackburn—The Trirteenth Cavalry—Sam Henry Post No. 33, G. A. R.—Civil War Bodies at Geneva—The Spanish-American War—Company B, Fourth Indiana Infantry—Becomes the One Hundred Sixtieth Regiment in Federal Service—Movement for a Soldiers' Monument—Site Selected and Cornerstone Laid—The Soldiers of Five Wars—Dedication of the Monument—How the Memorial Appears—Adams County in the World's War—National Guard Mustered into the United States Service—Company A, Fourth Infantry—Men in Service, Spring of 1918—State University's Honor Tablet.

From the Civil war to the World's war, Adams County has done its full part in supporting the causes which the bulk of its people believe to be right, with all the men, the money and the stanch backing of public sentiment at its command. Like the remainder of Indiana and the United States, it has always loved peace and has only gone to war when it was obliged to fight for the free development of peaceful pursuits and a high average of ideals.

Ante-Civil War Companies

So far as can be ascertained, the first company organized in Adams County was raised about 1845. It is known that Samuel S. Mickle, William Trout and James Niblick were officers; that the company was mustered twice a month and was drilled by either an officer from the governor's staff or from the United States service. In 1862, besides the several companies raised for active service at the front, some of

the citizens who remained at home for various good reasons were organized as Home Guards.

Martial Spirit Springs Up Over-Night

When the Civil war broke upon the country, Adams County had a population of only about 9,000 inhabitants. With a population mainly devoted to agriculture which knew nothing of war except by history and tradition, it could hardly be expected that a martial spirit would spring up over-night. But that was exactly what happened fifty-six years ago, as in the year of Grace and Our Lord, 1917. After the Sumter news was flashed over the country, the transformation in Adams County as in every other rural section of the North, was as if born in electricity and lightning. Men stopped talking promiscuously at the corner grocery, or on the streets, and gathered in crowds at country schoolhouses and public halls, freely offering of their means and their lives to stamp out what they considered a menace to their homes and their typical institutions.

First Contributions of Men

A number of volunteers at once proceeded to Richmond, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis and other centers, there to enlist in various companies and regiments. For such contributions of soldiers the county never received special credit. It was four or five months after the beginning of the war before a full company was raised in Adams County. These contributions of its best young men continued as long as the Government called for recruits until some 700 soldiers had been furnished, or nearly one in ten of the total population of the county. The draft was enforced but once—in October, 1862. Then thirty-seven men were drawn from these townships: Preble, 13; French, 13; Hartford, 8; Kirkland, 3.

Bounties and Relief

About this time, the county offered a $100 bounty to each volunteer, with $5 monthly to a wife and $1 monthly to each child under fourteen years of age. In January, 1865, under the last call of President Lincoln, when another draft was threatened, the Board of County Commissioners, under authority of a special popular vote, offered a bounty of $300. In the fulfilment of these measures, the county paid out in the progress of the war $50,000 for bounties and over $18,000

for the relief of families. Most of the townships also gave bounties to fill their quotas as fixed by the Government. These reported amounts were: Hartford, $2,200; Root, $2,200; Union, $2,000; Preble, $1,800; Blue Creek, $1,800; Washington, $1,600; Wabash, $1,400; Monroe, $400; Jefferson, $400. Altogether, by county and townships, there was expended in Adams County, during the Civil war, the sum of $82,894. In consideration of its population, wealth and the disturbed condition of all occupations and business, that was a record for excusable pride.

Company C, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry

It was not until the fall of 1861 that a full company of volunteers was raised in Adams County. That unit, which became Company C of the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, was organized with the following officers: Captain, Esaias Dailey; first lieutenant, Byron H. Dent, and second lieutenant, Henry C. Weimer. Samuel S. Mickle was major of the regiment, but resigned April 12, 1862. Captain Dailey resigned in February, 1862, and Lieutenant Dent was promoted to his place, while Austin Crabbs became first lieutenant. Lieutenant Weimer died at Bardstown, Kentucky, February 18, 1862, and Calvin D. Hart succeeded him. In April, 1862, Captain Dent resigned and Lieutenant Crabbs received another promotion. He was captain until December, 1864, when his term of service expired and he was mustered out. Horatio G. P. Jennings became first lieutenant when Austin Crabbs was promoted and served until the expiration of his term. Lieutenant Hart resigned October 18, 1862, and next day William A. Dailey was given his shoulder straps. He resigned October 23, 1864. Ira A. Blossom was first lieutenant from January 1, 1865, and captain from March 1st following, John T. Weimer then becoming first lieutenant. Originally, the company had ninety-eight enlisted men; to there were added, at different times, twenty-three recruits, making 121 as its maximum strength.

The Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, of which Company C was a unit, was composed of companies raised in the Eleventh Congressional District and was commanded by James R. Slack. It was with Buell and Pope's armies in the Missouri campaigns, being the first regiment to enter Fort Thompson, New Madrid. Thence it was moved to Tennessee and after the capture of Fort Pillow was transferred to Arkansas, and soon afterward joined General Grant's army before Vicksburg. It participated in the siege and was there at the surrender on the 4th of July, 1863. The battle of Champion Hills

levied sadly from its ranks. Subsequently the regiment participated in the unfortunate Banks expeditions in Louisiana, and during that period reenlisted as a body and became veterans in the official acceptation of that word; "veterans," in that sense, including all those Union soldiers who reenlisted, after their three years' term of service expired, for the "period of the war," whatever that might be. In December, 1864, Colonel Slack was commissioned a brigadier general, and John A. McLaughlin was promoted to the colonelcy of the Forty-seventh. Under its new commander it participated in the campaigns near and against Mobile, and was with General Herron's army at Shreveport, Louisiana, which received the surrender of General Price's army of the Trans-Mississippi department. It was mustered out of the service at that point, in October, 1865. Reaching Indianapolis with 530 men and 32 officers, it was present, on the first of November, at a reception given to the regiment in the capitol grounds, and was addressed by Governor Morton, General Slack, and Cols. Milton S. Robinson and John A. McLaughlin. On the following day the regiment was finally discharged.

Byron H. Dent

Byron H. Dent, who went into the service as first lieutenant of Company C, resigned that commission after a few months and later was appointed adjutant of the Eighty-ninth Indiana, serving thus for nearly two years. His father, George A. Dent, was one of the pioneers of the county and its first auditor.

Three Companies of the Eighty-ninth Infantry

In the summer of 1862 Adams County raised three entire companies, about 325 men, for the Eighty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, of which Charles D. Murray, of Kokomo, was colonel. Besides Adjutant Dent, there were upon its regimental staff the following: Barnabas Collins and Jacob M. Crabbs, quartermasters, the former serving a few months in 1862 and the latter for more than a year of the regiment's term; Enos W. Erick, for about a year in 1862-63 as chaplain, and John P. Porter, as assistant surgeon and surgeon in 1862-64, being killed by guerrillas in November of the latter year.

The first captain of Company H was Enos W. Erick, who became chaplain of the regiment when it was fully organized. Adoniram J. Hill was then promoted from the first lieutenancy to the captaincy,

and James H. Browning, formerly second lieutenant, moved up a grade. Martin V. B. Spencer was promoted from the ranks to second lieutenant. Captain Hill was mustered out in January, 1865, and Robert D. Patterson commanded the company during the remainder of the war. Upon the resignation of Lieutenant Browning in February, 1865, William A. Wisner was promoted to his place, several changes having already been made in the second lieutenancy.

Of Company I, Henry Banta was captain in 1862-63; Peter Litzel, in 1863-65, and John J. Chubb until the muster-out in September of the latter year. Captains Litzel and Chubb had both been first lieutenants, and the latter had also been a second lieutenant. John Blood who had been a second lieutenant held a first lieutenancy during the last year of the war in which the Eighty-ninth saw service.

Edwin S. Metzger was captain and Henry McLean first lieutenant of Company K during the entire term of service from August, 1862, to September, 1865. James Stoops, Jr., was second lieutenant, but resigned in June, 1863, and was succeeded by Henry H. Hart. When quite young he had joined Company I and was afterward promoted to be drum major of his regiment. He was discharged at Mobile, Alabama, in July, 1865, and after the war was engaged in the lumber and milling business at Decatur. His father, Jacob S. Hart, was an old miller of that city.

The movements and campaigns of the Eighty-ninth Regiment were substantially the same as those of the Forty-seventh. It participated in the operations in the southwest, in Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The Eighty-ninth was in the assaults and sieges against Fort Pillow, Vicksburg and Mobile; was a part of Banks' Red River expeditions, and was mustered out of the Union service at Mobile, July 19, 1865. Proceeding homeward, it reached Indianapolis on the 4th of August, when, after having been publicly received by Governor Morton in the State House Grove, it was discharged. The remaining recruits of the Eighty-ninth were transferred to the Fifty-second Indiana, and continued to serve with that organization until September 10, 1865, when they were mustered out with the regiment. During its term of service the Eighty-ninth suffered losses as follows: 31 killed, 167 wounded and 4 missing, making a total loss of 202. It marched 2,363 miles on foot, traveled by steamer 7,112 miles and by rail 1,232 miles. Total distance traveled, 10,707 miles.

Capt. A. J. Hill

Capt. A. J. Hill, of Company H, was one of several well known newspaper men who enthusiastically dropped the pen for the sword.

A New Yorker by birth, he had been educated in Virginia and at the age of twenty settled in Decatur. Graduated he became interested in newspaper work, and in the spring of 1859 purchased a half interest in the Eagle. He was then in his twenty-seventh year. Soon afterward he became sole owner of the paper and was conducting it in the fall of 1862 when he was elected captain of Company H. He took with him to the front the entire force of the office, including the "devil" for a drummer boy. Captain Hill continued in command of the company until the fall of 1864, when his health failed and in January, 1865, he returned home. At that time a draft was pending in the county, but by his personal efforts its necessity was completely neutralized through the enlistment of sixty volunteers, which filled all demands made by the President for troops during the war. With this work accomplished, he resumed his old position on the Eagle, the office having been rented during his absence at the front. After the war (1867) he was elected clerk of the Adams Circuit Court and served for two terms. Although he disposed of his interest in the Eagle in 1874, when its name was changed to the Democrat, and engaged for several years in business, he returned to newspaper work for a time, previous to his retirement from active pursuits on account of ill health.

Death of Maj. Sam Henry and Others

In the fall of 1864 the Eighty-ninth was engaged in guarding Memphis against the threatened cavalry raids of the Confederate General Price and in pursuit of his force in Missouri. While employed in the latter movements at Greenton, some distance south of Lexington, Maj. Sam Henry, who resided at Pendleton, Howard Ashler, quartermaster, of Kokomo, and John P. Porter, of Decatur, the regimental surgeon, were killed by guerrillas on the 1st day of November. As told by a member of the brigade, who passed along soon after the shooting: "They were with their command on a march to St. Louis, about forty miles from the town of Lexington, and had stopped at a farm home to get something to eat. The lady served them, but pleaded with them to leave, telling them that they were in danger. They scoffed at the idea, however, and finished their meal. They had left their horses at the gate and their revolvers in the holsters. The guerrillas slipped up, surrounded the horses and captured the three officers. They took the men to the rear of the command, and entered a small woods, where they stripped the men, shot them and, taking all their possessions, left them there, riddled with bullets. The next

brigade found them and, recognizing the brave officers, took the bodies on to their own regiments and the remains were immediately shipped home for interment." Seventeen years afterward the G. A. R. post at Decatur was named in honor of the brave and popular Major, Sam Henry. On the walls of the G. A. R. hall hangs a fine likeness of the major, presented by his brother, Charles L. Henry, while he was congressman from the Eighth Indiana district.

The Eleventh Cavalry

In the autumn of 1863 a number of men were raised in Adams County for the Eleventh Cavalry and became Company C of the 126th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. James C. Wilson, a Decatur carpenter who had served in the Mexican war, was second lieutenant. Soon afterward he became captain of Company G, Thirteenth Cavalry, in which he served until the close of the war. He was in command of the company at the battle of Nashville. While in the army Captain Wilson contracted a disease, which caused his death on November 29, 1866.

Norval Blackburn

Norval Blackburn was second lieutenant of Company C from March 1, 1864, first lieutenant from August 1st of that year and captain from June 1, 1865. At the time of his enlistment in the previous September he was in his twenty-first year. He was mustered out of the service in September, 1865. After the war he held various county offices, serving as clerk of the Circuit Court in 1879-83. Soon afterward he bought a half-interest in the Democrat, in 1884 became sole proprietor and in 1885 commenced his term as postmaster of Decatur. The several companies of the Eleventh Cavalry were raised and organized during the fall of 1863 and the winter of 1863-64. On the first of March of the latter year the regimental organization was perfected at Indianapolis, and the command given to Robert R. Stewart, who had been promoted from the lieutenant colonelcy of the Second Cavalry. On the first of May the regiment left Indianapolis and moved by rail to Nashville, only a small portion of the command being mounted. After remaining in a camp of instruction for several weeks, it was assigned to guard various railway lines in Northern Alabama. In the fall it was mounted as a regiment and joined in the pursuit of Hood's forces from Nashville to Northern Alabama. It was then dismounted and again placed on guard duty. Subsequently,

as cavalry, it operated in Missouri and Kansas, and it was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, in the latter state, in September, 1865. On the 26th of that month the regiment reached Indianapolis with thirty officers and 579 men, under command of Col. Abram Sharra, for final discharge and payment. On the 28th, after partaking of a satisfying dinner at the Soldiers' Home, the Eleventh Cavalry marched to the State House, where it was publicly welcomed by speeches from General Mansfield, Colonel Stewart and Surgeon Reed, to which responses were made by Colonel Sharra, Majors Crowder and Showalter and Chaplain Barnhart. After the reception the regiment was marched to Camp Carrington, where the men and officers were paid and discharged from the service of the United States.

The Thirteenth Cavalry

A large part of Company G, Thirteenth Cavalry (131st Regiment), was composed of men enlisted in Adams County in the winter of 1864. As stated, James C. Wilson was captain of the company. William Bettenberg, Andre J. Simcoke and Robert T. Patterson were given lieutenants' commissions during 1865, but mustered out before taking the rank thus conferred. The Thirteenth was the last cavalry organization raised in the state. In April, 1864, the regiment was mustered into the service, with Gilbert M. L. Johnson as colonel. On the 30th of that month it left for the Nashville camp of instruction as an infantry command, and in the following month engaged in several skirmishes with Confederate cavalry in Alabama. In the fall, six of the twelve companies forming the regiment went to Louisville to be equipped as cavalry units, and, as such, hovered for observation around Hood's army. They also had a number of brisk skirmishes with the enemy and suffered some losses. Company G was not included in these operations. That command, with five other companies, was placed under Lieutenant Colonel Pepper, and, dismounted, participated in the battle of Nashville, December, 1864. Soon afterward they were remounted, and joined by the other companies, and the entire regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, Seventh Division of the Cavalry Corps of the Military Division of the Mississippi, Colonel Johnson commanding the brigade.

In 1865 the Thirteenth Cavalry was engaged in raids on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad around Vicksburg and in the operations against the forts and defenses of Mobile. After the fall of Mobile, under command of General Grierson, the regiment started on a raid of some 800 miles through Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, arriving at

Columbus, the state last named, in May. Its operations had extended over a period of more than a month. The Thirteenth then proceeded to Macon, Mississippi, garrisoning that point and sixty miles of railroad tributary to it. Immense quantities of supplies and ordnance were also confiscated. The muster-out occurred at Vicksburg in November, 1865. It reached Indianapolis for final discharge, on the 25th, with 23 officers and 633 men.

This was the last of the commands from Adams County to be mustered out of the service, and therefore concluded the Civil war as far as that section of the state was especially concerned.

Sam Henry Post, No. 33, G. A. R.

About three years after the conclusion of the Civil war the first post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, Illinois. The pioneer post and the patriotic order itself were born in that city, Auril 6, 1866. On May 12, 1882, was organized the post at Decatur, Indiana. In the evening of that day, at the Masonic Hall, Col. R. S. Robertson called the twenty-nine Union soldiers together, who had signified their intention to become charter members, and A. C. Gregory, of Decatur, was elected secretary. A belated comrade arrived soon after, making the original thirty of the post. I. S. Blossom was first initiated by Colonel Robertson, assisted by Comrade Drake of Post 21, Michigan, and Comrade Todd, Indiana Post, No. 33. After the thirty had been initiated, the post selected its first elective officers, as follows: Henry H. Hart, post commander; David Laman, senior vice commander; B. W. Sholty, junior vice commander; J. P. Quinn, officer of the day; J. S. McLeod, officer of the guard; L. A. Counter, quartermaster; Washington Kern, chaplain; R. B. Freeman, surgeon. Commander Hart appointed A. C. Gregory, adjutant. Soon after the organization of the post a committee was appointed to suggest a name, and on August 5th its recommendation that it adopt "Sam Henry" as such was adopted. The organization therefore became from that date, Sam Henry Post No. 33, Grand Army of the Republic.

The successive commanders of the post have been as follows: H. H. Hart, 1882; B. H. Dent, 1883; B. W. Sholty, 1884; J. D. Hale, 1885; C. O. Bly, 1886; H. H. Hart (second term), 1887; D. K. Shackley, 1888; A. J. Hill, 1889; David Laman, 1890; Ira A. Blossom, 1891; G. Christen, 1892; Norval Blackburn, 1893; Theodore R. Moore, 1894; R. S. Peterson, 1895; J. H. Smith, 1901; George Woodward, 1902; Henry Lankenau, 1903; Theodore Kennedy, 1904; J. D. Hale, 1905

(second term); M. J. Wertzberger, 1906; C. T. Rainier, 1907; D. K. Shackley (second term), 1908; R. D. Patterson, 1909; J. R. Parrish, 1910; L. N. Grandstaff, 1911; T. W. Mallonee, 1912; F. F. French, 1912; W. H. Myers, 1914-18. On New Year's Day of 1918 the Post had fifty-two members in good standing. During the thirty-five years of its existence the Post has had its headquarters in five different halls —located in the Masonic, the Patterson, the Forbing, the Railing and the Wilder buildings. The last named is opposite the courthouse.

Civil War Bodies at Geneva

On July 24, 1882 (the same year of the organization of the Decatur Post), the John P. Porter Post No. 83, of Geneva, was organized with fifteen members, thus commemorating the services of the brave and efficient Decatur surgeon, whose fate was similar to that of Maj. Sam Henry. The first elective officers of the Geneva Post were: John M. Holloway, commander; W. H. Fought, senior vice commander; Lafayette Rape, junior vice commander; J. C. Hale, adjutant; S. G. Ralston, surgeon; W. R. Meeks, chaplain. The John P. Porter Post was fairly prosperous for a number of years, as it drew its membership from quite an area of country covering the southern townships, but with the decline of Geneva and natural removals and deaths, it has gradually gone out of existence. In 1884 the McPherson Camp No. 11, Sons of Veterans, was also organized at Geneva, and was for some time not only the only active organization of the kind in the county, but in the entire state. The John P. Porter Relief Corps No. 119 was mustered on January 20, 1898.

In 1886 both a Woman's Relief Corps and a Sons of Veteran Camp were organized at Decatur, but they have become quiescent; the issues of another, and a greater war, now agitate every home and all generations and classes.

The Spanish-American War

The first military organization in Adams County to have what may be called a substantial history was Company B, of the Fourth Regiment, I. N. G. It was formed June 7, 1889, with Dr. Jonas Coverdale as captain. Its records show that in 1891 the company was called out to guard the jail against a mob, and in 1894 it served twelve days at Hammond during the railroad riots at that point, under Capt. John Myers. Shortly afterward the organization was transferred to the Indiana National Guard, and upon the declaration of war against Spain in April, 1898, Edmond P. Miller, who since 1892 had risen

from the ranks to the captaincy of the company, assumed its command. On the 23d of that month President McKinley issued a call for 125,000 volunteers to serve for two years unless sooner discharged, and two days afterward Governor Mount received a message from the War Department announcing the quota assigned to Indiana.

Company B, Fourth Indiana Infantry

To Camp Mount, named in honor of the governor, were ordered the First, Second, Third and Fourth regiments of the National Guard, and the first company to arrive on the ground was the organization from Frankfort, Clinton County, the headquarters of which were almost within marching distance of Indianapolis. The first company of the Fourth Regiment to report was B, made up almost entirely of Adams County men—sixty-nine from Decatur alone; the remainder of the 110 from Berne, Geneva, Monmouth, Steele, Monroe, Pleasant Mills, Curryville, and a few outside points, several going from Wells County and Indianapolis. In May Captain Miller was promoted to be major of the Fourth Regiment and John M. Lenhart, who had served as first lieutenant since 1895, was advanced to the captaincy. He retained the command until the muster-out of the company in April, 1899.

Becomes the 160th Regiment in Federal Service

The Fourth, which was composed of companies from Decatur, Bluffton, Ossian, Marion, Lafayette, Wabash, Columbia City, Warsaw, Tipton, Huntington, Anderson and Logansport, had all assembled at Camp Mount before the close of April 26, 1898, and on May 16th was mustered into the volunteer service of the United States as the 160th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The regiment left Camp Mount and arrived at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Georgia, on the 18th of May. Under orders to proceed to Porto Rico, it reached Newport News, Virginia, on the 30th of July. The orders calling the regiment to Porto Rico having been countermanded, the 160th proceeded to Camp Hamilton, Lexington, Kentucky, where it arrived on August 23d. In November it was transferred to Columbus, Georgia, and in January of the following year was ordered in three sections to Matanzas, Cuba, where they were united on the 27th of that month and went into camp. The regiment remained in Cuba until March 27th, when it proceeded to Savannah, Georgia, to prepare for muster-out, which occurred April 25, 1899. The 160th

thus shared the common experience of other Indiana regiments, in that it had no active part in the Spanish-American war, although always ready and eager to participate. During this period of what, nevertheless, was faithful service, there were several changes in the lieutenancies. Solomon C. Edington, who resigned as first lieutenant in August, 1898, was succeeded by Charles E. Barnhart, who had been advanced a grade, and Lieutenant Barnhart's place was assumed by Richard D. Myers, formerly first sergeant.

Some of the volunteers of the 160th Regiment who went from Adams County returned ahead of the main body, but the larger part of Company B arrived home on the 5th of May. Although quite an impressive program had been arranged to welcome the boys as they stepped from the southern train, which included a speech by Mayor A. P. Beatty, the soldiers precipitately broke for their relatives and friends, evidently preferring more private welcomes; the prearranged ceremonies therefore were never "pulled off."

Movement for a Soldiers' Monument

Before the erection of the impressive memorial in the Courthouse Square, the Sam Henry Post had a movable cenotaph commemorating those who had served the Union from Adams County, which, on Decoration Day, was moved to the lawn or other scene of services and hung with wreaths and flags.

As Decoration Day came, year after year, with the ever-thinning ranks of those who placed the wreaths and the pathetic increase of the soldier graves, an idea took form in the minds of the younger, the stronger, and the still grateful generations, which developed into a definite plan to symbolize the gratitude and honor flowing in a steady tide from the stalwart, progressive present to the old-time patriots who had sacrificed so much in the line of duty, and most of whom had passed away—not unhonored, but not honored as befitting their faithful services. The movement which finally resulted in the soldiers' memorial monument at Decatur, the first in Indiana to be officially supported by a county, seems to have had its inception in the aroused conscience and determination of French Quinn, who served as marshal of the Decoration Day for 1912. On the following Sunday, while reviewing in his mind the touching pictures of devotion displayed in the thinning ranks of the old soldiers who still advanced bravely but tremblingly to the sad office of paying tribute to their former comrades in the flesh, Mr. Quinn wrote an earnest article for the Daily Democrat, urging the building of a soldiers' monu-

ment. He secured the co-operation of John H. Heller, and the Sam Henry Post was also soon working for the project. Thomas Mallonee, who was then commander, appointed a committee to "devise ways and means," comprising S. B. Fordyce, D. K. Shackley, Joshua R. Parrish, Fred F. French and L. N. Grandstaff. Having secured legal advice from A. P. Beatty and P. L. Andrews, a way was found to raise the necessary money to erect the memorial other than by the rather tedious and uncertain method of gathering the funds through individual subscriptions. The county, as a solid body, was placed behind the enterprise; the county, backed by the taxpayers. At the September session of the Board of County Commissioners the Ways and Means Committee of the Grand Army Post presented a petition signed by 2,500 voters (more than required by law) asking that an appropriation of $10,000 be made for the erection of a memorial to the soldiers of Adams County. The board, then comprising James D. Hendricks, Henry Zwick and Christ Eicher, granted it unanimously.

Site Selected and Cornerstone Laid

In the following month, while on a business trip to Chicago, Mr. Quinn and F. M. Schirmeyer were introduced by the late William French, director of the Art Institute, to Charles Mulligan, as a sculptor well qualified to undertake the execution of the proposed memorial. He was therefore selected for the work, submitted his design to an advisory committee of citizens, and finished the work to the satisfaction of all. The contract for its execution in stone and bronze was awarded to the Wemhoff Monumental Works of Decatur for over $6,400. In April, 1913, a site for the work was selected on the southwest corner of the Courthouse Square, the monument to be set diagonally. Charles M. Dodd did the actual chiseling of the figures from the Bedford sandstone. Comrade Joshua Parrish had the honor of taking the first shovelful of earth when the ground was broken for the foundation and Comrade William H. Myers, a mason by trade, laid the first brick.

The cornerstone was laid September 6, 1913, by the comrades of the post as a whole. The exercises were opened by Mayor Judson W. Teeple, and James A. Hendricks, president of the Board of Commissioners, turned the monument over to the post for the expressed purpose of laying the cornerstone. The guard of honor then unfurled the post flag, Chaplain J. R. Parrish read a Scriptural lesson, and Quartermaster T. R. Mallonee placed in the vault at the north-

The Soldiers Memorial at Decatur

east corner of the monument a box containing papers which gave a complete record of the monument movement and of the post and Relief Corps, with names of all those who had assisted in the work. Then the mechanical steps progressed rapidly, and when the last stone had been set, under the supervision of Chief Engineer George Wemhoff, Sculptors Mulligan and Dodd both came and personally gave the finishing touches to the monument. With Mr. Mulligan came Margaret McMasters Van Slyke, said to be Chicago's most perfectly formed woman, who posed for the figure of Peace, the central figure of the monument, during its retouching.

The Soldiers of Five Wars

The compiling of the soldiers' names for engraving on the monument was quite a task. It was decided to place on the bronze plates on the two wings of the monument the names of all the soldiers of the Civil, Spanish-American and Mexican wars and the War of 1812, who had resided in the county, were buried within its limits or were living therein at the time the monument was dedicated. The members of the committee who had charge of the work were B. W. Sholty (chairman), P. L. Andrews, D. F. Quinn, R. D. Myers and L. N. Grandstaff. The result was the collection of 1,276 names, representing 1,152 soldiers of the Civil war, 111 of the Spanish-American, 8 of the Mexican and 5 of the War of 1812. Even thought it was thought that the greatest vigilance had been used in the search, it was found after the names had been engraved that one omission had been made—that of Thomas Archbold, grandfather of Judge J. T. Merryman and County Treasurer W. J. Archbold, and a great-grandfather of Dr. Roy Archbold, the Decatur dentist. He is the sole representative of the Revolutionary war.

Dedication of the Monument

The completed monument was unveiled and dedicated in the midst of elaborate and appropriate ceremonies on the 30th of October, 1913. Business houses, residences and the monument, with surrounding grounds, were beautifully decorated under the general supervision of D. K. Shackley, and R. D. Myers, the Spanish-American war veteran, served as marshall of the parade. Governor Samuel M. Ralston delivered the principal address at the unveiling and dedicatory exercises of the afternoon, and was attended by a number of state officials. Congressman John A. M. Adair was also present. Ex-State Senator

John W. Tyndall, son of a Civil war veteran, served as master of ceremonies. County Attorney Clark Lutz, in behalf of the Board of commissioners, turned the monument over to the Grand Army of the Republic, after explaining that the $10,000 appropriation was secured by a tax levy of seven cents per hundred dollars of all taxable property, and that the monument, therefore, substantially represented the entire people of the county. Miss Mary Hale, of Geneva, granddaughter of ex-Senator S. W. Hale, unveiled the monument. The exercises closed with addresses by Daniel W. Comstock, state commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, Col. W. L. Kiger, of Bluffton, B. W. Sholty and Col. Simeon Fordyce, chairman of the Monumental Committee, of Decatur. The last named concluded by returning the monument, after its dedication, to the representatives of the Board of County Commissioners for "its care and protection."

How the Memorial Appears

The following description of the monument is from the Decatur Daily Democrat, and was published at the time it was dedicated:

"Facing the southland, the scene of the late conflict, to which the greater number of our soldiers were given, stands our memorial for our brave soldiers. Since they made our country that of a liberty-loving, peace-loving nation, it is not strange that the conception of our monument should be a departure from the usual militant idea—that its dominant figure should be that of Peace, the result of the conflict, rather than an expression of the means of the conflict. Peace is represented by the female figure of the nation, in heroic size, facing the right. Her left hand rests on the American shield, which in turn rests at her feet, as the conflict is over and she no longer has need of it on her arm for vital protection. On the shield are the thirteen stars and thirteen stripes. Back of the shield, at the side of the figure of Peace hangs the scabbard and sword, sheathed and at rest. Her right arm is extended and rests along the top of the monument, on the implements of war, now at rest—the gun, the cartridge box, the canteen, and the flags which are draped, or looped, around a now unused bier. In her hand she holds a laurel twig, symbolical of perseverance, ambition and glory. Her noble figure is clad in the flowing gown, falling from her steels or breastplate, which is formed of the spreading wings of the American eagle, the head of which pulsates with life, courage and inspiration, on her breast.

"The head of Peace is bowed in reverence and respect, as in mourning for those who gave their lives for hers. The monument is

built in Pylon or Exedra style. On either side of the central figure of Peace, extend the two wings of the main shaft of the monument, in open-book form. On each of the wings is a bronze tablet, bearing the names of all soldiers of the county, for whom the monument is erected. At the four corners of this shaft are spreading-winged American eagles, in the Egyptian style of architecture. At the base of the shaft is a seat-like projection for the accommodation of speakers, with a forum at the front of the figure of Peace. The seat is a distinctly new arrangement, and very admirable for the purpose. On either side of the forum are two vases on pedestals, which will be filled with flowers. Leading to the wide plaza that surrounds the shaft of the monuments are a series of five steps, nearly surrounding the monument. To the women of the war, has the rear of the monument, which is equally if not more beautiful, been dedicated. The central figure of this represents in alto-relief a nurse on the field ministering to a wounded soldier. A tree forms a battleground. The nurse is of the type of woman ever ready to do good, the type of woman, who at a call wraps a towel about her head, if there is no other head dress near, flings another over her arm and hastens forth to aid the needy. She is shown half kneeling, supporting the wounded soldier, whose shattered right hand she has just bandaged and on which she is putting the last kind touches. The soldier, exhausted and fainting, supports his weak frame on the ground with the other hand, the long, slender fingers of which, show the weakness and emaciation of the body which has passed through many hardships. The soldier is very truly portrayed in his uniform, with eagle and cap. Above this alto-relief figure is engraved a tribute to the women of the war composed by French Quinn of this city, as follows: 'To the women of our nation, as a tribute to their courage, devotion and sacrifice.' On the east wing of the monument is inscribed: 'To the glory of our country and in loving memory of our soldier heroes.' On the west wing will be engraved the names of the several soldiers whose names were overlooked in the compiling of the list for the bronze plates. Among these is the only one in the county, thus far known, who served in the Revolutionary war—that of Thomas Archbold, grandfather of Judge Merryman, and great grandfather of Roy Archbold, of this city. Beneath the central figure is the fountain, which forms a balance for the forum at the front. From the base of the alto-relief figure, the water falls in a broad sheet, through which, at the base can be seen the 'Maine tablet.' This is the tablet made from the metal of the battleship Maine, which was resurrected from its watery grave, and whose wanton destruction brought on the Spanish-American war,

in which 111 of our soldiers fought. The relief figures on the tablet show up especially pretty through the water-fall. The fountain is also rendered the more beautiful at night, by the electric lights, which show alternately red, white and blue, and then appear in unison. In front of the fountain, at either side, are pedestals for vases, which the Tri-Kappa girls agree to keep filled with flowers on special occasions.

"The monument is built from the native stone of the state—that of blue Bedford oolitic limestone, from the quarries of Lawrence County. The stone for the state soldiers' monument at Indianapolis was cut from the same quarries. The monument is of noble proportions. In length it is forty-two feet, six inches; in width, eighteen feet, six inches, and in height, eighteen feet. The female figure is twelve feet and three inches in height."

To complete the history of the soldiers' monument at Decatur is required the additional fact that space has been reserved on the reverse side of the face for the carving of the names of 1,000 heroes of the future. It is to be most devoutly wished that the terrible world's war which is now raging will not be the means of crowding that reserved space on the memorial monument. If it does continue much longer, however, some sculptor of the future may be obliged to perform that sad and sacred duty.

Adams County in the World's War

On April 1, 1917, a few days after it had been declared that the United States was in a state of war with Germany, Charles R. Dunn, of Bluffton, commenced to raise a new company for service against the arch enemy of democracy. After a short time he was joined in the work by Robert H. Peterson, of Decatur. In a comparatively short time, enough enlistments had been secured to insure a new unit, and on April 25th, after the required physical examinations had been passed, the boys were mustered into the service as Company A, Fourth Indiana National Guard. The formal ceremony of joining the service took place on the evening of April 27th, at the soldiers' monument, in the presence of a large and interested crowd. Maj. P. A. Davis, of Indianapolis, had charge of the muster-in, after which a telling address was delivered by Clark Lutz, of Decatur. While in the National Guard service the company was faithfully drilled by Capt. Frank Livengood, afterward of Company C, Huntington. On August 11-12, the company was given its Federal inspection by Lieut. R. B. Moore. As a result, five were honorably dis-

charged, bringing the roster down to 109. With a vaccination for small-pox and an inoculation for typhoid fever by Lieutenant Moore, the history of the company as a unit of the National Guard ended, and at noon, on August 15th, it was absorbed into the Federal forces.

National Guard Mustered into the U. S. Service

The mustering-in was done by Captain Davis, of Winchester, on Court Street, all of the members being mustered with the exception of John H. Debolt, who received an honorable discharge on the following day, because of having dependents, a wife and children. On the 19th of August, ten men were selected from the company and ordered to Fort Benjamin Harrison to be mustered into a field battery and sent to France as a part of the famous Rainbow Division. They were George F. Schultz (in charge of the squad), Fred Sheets, Burl Johnson, William Johnson, Merl McCroskey, Omer F. Nevil, Clarence Passwaters, Lester Robinson, Clarence Statler and Harry Steed. Statler was returned two weeks later and rejoined Company A. The others went to France in November, 1917.

Company A, Fourth Infantry

The Fourth Indiana Infantry, of which Company A is a unit, is commanded by Col. Robert L. Moorhead, of Indianapolis, who was a sergeant major in the Spanish-American war, connected with the 158th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. After the war he was commissioned Captain of Company D, Second Indiana Infantry, a command which had more expert sharp-shooters than any other company in the United States. Still later Colonel Moorhead was promoted major of ordnance and then full major. Lieut.-Col. Robert P. Youngman, of Crawfordsville; Major Clyde F. Dreisback, of Fort Wayne, and Capt. Charles Dunn, of Bluffton, had also had experience in the Spanish-American war. First Lieut. Robert Peterson had been only four years out of high school and had but recently completed his course at the State University. On the other hand, Second Lieut. George J. Rollison, who is a native of Mississippi, had enjoyed about eleven years of experience in various branches of the Regular Army.

Camp Shelby, at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where the Hoosier regiment and Company A were sent for training, is a little over 100 miles northeast of New Orleans, in the midst of pine-woods, truck gardens and productive farms. It nestles among the cool hills on

a rolling, healthful site, and is said to be one of the most healthful camps, or cantonments, in the country.

The original roster of Company A, as in force in September, 1917, not long before it started for Camp Shelby, was as follows, the names being alphabetically arranged:

Robert Allspaw, Berne; Hosea Andrews, Monroe; Dwight Archer, Decatur; Frank Bacon, Decatur; Cass Bacon, Decatur; Carroll Bacon, Decatur; John C. Bair, Bryant; Albert Beery, Decatur; Lloyd D. Beery, Decatur; Leo Bogner, Decatur; Edward Bovine, Decatur; Gust Borne, Magley; James B. Brill, Indianapolis; Jefferson Brinneman, Liberty Center; Dallas Brown, Decatur; Chester Bryan, Monroe; Racy Burrell, Decatur; Irvin Butler, Decatur; Leroy Cable, Preble; Paul H. Cook, Poneto (Wells County); Floyd Cook, Decatur; Jesse Cole, Decatur; Virgil Cross, Decatur; Earl Crozier, Decatur; Elmer Darwachter, Decatur; Ernest Dettinger, Magley; John H. Debolt, Decatur; Russell Dull, Willshire (Ohio); Charles R. Dunn, Bluffton (Wells County); Leo Ehinger, Decatur; Fred Elzey, Decatur; Herman Emery, Berne; Floyd G. Enos, Decatur; Carlyle Flanders, Decatur; Heber Fonner, Decatur; Frank Foltz, Willshire (Ohio); Charles Fryback, Bluffton (Wells County); Lawrence Garard, Fort Wayne; Fred Gay, Decatur; Melvin Gallogly, Decatur; Leon Gass, Decatur; James Ginley, Decatur; Earl Grossman, Wren (Ohio); Herman Haag, Decatur; Walter Hammond, Decatur; Richard Harden, Bluffton (Wells County); John Helmrich, Magley; Hugh Hitchcock, Decatur; Howard Hixon, Decatur; Dewey Hooker, Lima (Ohio); Garth Hoover, Decatur; Burt Hower, Decatur; Frank Hower, Decatur; Edward Jaberg, Magley; Burl Johnson, Decatur; William Johnson, Magley; Bernard Keller, Decatur; Herbert Kern, Decatur; May Knavel, Decatur; Adolph Kolter, Magley; Edward Kreutzmann, Magley; Sherman Kumpf, Bluffton (Wells County); Joseph C. Laurent, Decatur; Lawrence Lord, Decatur; Charles Maloney, Monroe; Lee May, Decatur; Fred McConnell, Decatur; Joe McConnell, Decatur; Marl McCrosky, Geneva; Lohnas McIntosh, Decatur; Robert A. Merryman, Decatur; Eugene Meibers, Fort Wayne; Chalmer Miller, Monroeville; Homer Miller, Bluffton (Wells County); Hubert Miller, Magley; Ira Miller, Uniondale; Otto Miller, Magley; Floyd Monday, Decatur; Charles H. Morgan, Monroe; Howard Mowery, Bluffton (Wells County); Morris Mummaw, Magley; John Muntz, Monroeville; Omer Neville, Geneva; Mike Nicholas, Bluffton (Wells County); Arbie Owens, Pleasant Mills; Harry Parr, Decatur; Homer Parrish, Decatur; Clarence Passwaters, Pleasant Mills; Donald C. Patterson, Decatur; Robert H. Peterson, Decatur; Edward Rademacher, Fort Wayne; Les-

ter Robinson, Decatur; George J. Rollison, Vicksburg (Mississippi); Frank Schultz, Decatur; Lloyd Shackley, Decatur; Fred Sheets, Decatur; Lynn Shoemaker, Indianapolis (Indiana); Giles Smelzer, Berne; Harry B. Smith, Bluffton (Wells County); George Sprague, Monroe; Clarence Statler, Magley; James K. Staley, Decatur; Harry Steed, Geneva; Harve Steele, Monroe; Clarence Stevens, Decatur; Roscoe Stout, Bluffton (Wells County); Tony Uher, Decatur; Bernard Ulman, Decatur; Glen Venis, Decatur; James Ward, Decatur; Marion L. Watkins, Monroe; Clarence Weber, Decatur; Vaughn Weldy, Decatur; Otto Wilson, Berne; Charles Wise, Decatur; Medford Wynne, Bluffton (Wells County); Edward F. Yaney, Decatur; and Frank Young, Decatur.

Men in Service, Spring of 1918

The "Adams County roll of honor," embracing those who were serving their country in the spring of 1918, was as follows. When it appeared in the local press in March of that year it was pronounced somewhat incomplete and, as time went on, doubtless other names were added; but the list is the best that is available and is therefore reproduced, as follows:

Members of Battery "A," 139th Field Artillery

Andrews, Hosea; Bacon, Carroll; Bacon, Frank; Bair, John; Beery, Lloyd; Bogner, Leo; Borne, Gust; Bovine, Edward; Brown, Dallas; Bryan, Chester; Burrell, Racy; Butler, Irvin; Cole, Jesse; Cross, Virgil; Crozier, Earl; Darwechter, Elmer; Dettinger, Ernest; Ehinger, Leo; Elzey, Fred; Emery, Herman; Enos, Floyd; Gallogly, Melvin; Flanders, Carlisle; Fonner, Heber; Garard, Lawrence; Gass, Leon; Gay, Fred; Ginley, James; Haag, Herman; Hammond, Walter; Helmrich, John; Hitchcock, Hugh; Hooker, Dewey; Hoover, Garth; Hower, Burt; Jaberg, Edward; Keller, Bernard; Kern, Herbert; Knavel, May; Kreutzman, Edward; Laurent, Joseph; Lord, Lawrence; Malony, Charles; May, Lee; Meibers, Eugene; Merryman, Robert; Miller, Chalmer; Miller, Hubert; Miller, Otto; Monday, Floyd; Morgan, Charles; Mummaw, Morris; Muntz, John; McConnell, Joe; McIntosh, Lonas; Owens, Arbie; Parr, Harry; Parrish, Homer; Patterson, Donald; Shackley, Lloyd; Smelser, Giles; Staley, James; Steele, Harve; Ulman, Bernard; Venis, Glen; Ward, James; Watkins, Marion; Weldy, Vaughn; Wilson, Otto; Weis, Charley; Wynn, Melford; and Yahne, Edward.

"Somewhere in France"

Ball, Clelland, Q. M. C., A. E. F.; Burdg, Joe L., Battery D, 150 F. A. D., 42nd Div.; Corbett, John D.; Teeple, J. H., Co. K, 16th I.; McConnell, Fred; Gass, Raymond, 2nd Co., 1st Div., M. G. Bt.; Johnson, Byrl, Hdq. Co., 150 F. A.; Thornburg, Chalres R., I. M. C. Supply Co. 305; Buckmaster, Leland, 77th Aero Squad.; Schultz, Geo. F., Hdq. Co., 150 F. A.; Railing, Jesse, Co. C, 23 Inf.; Sheets, Fred, Hdq. Co., 150th F. A.; Daniels, Harold; Neptune, Glenn, Q. M. C., 1st Div.; and Kerr, Lieut. R. C.

In Other Divisions

Beery, 1st Lieut. Arthur; Lenhart, Robert E., Co. C, 42 I.; Potts, Ralph E., Co. E, 151st Ind. I.; Billman, Flavius E., M. O. T. C.; Haines, Chester L., Co. D, 113th E.; Battenberg, H. B., 27th Cav.; Smith, C. R., Co. C, 4th Div., 5th F. B. S. C.; Briggs, W. C., 46th Reg. I.; Adler, William C., Bat. A, 10th F. A.; Harvey, Harold G., Bakers Co., 310; Miller, Bernard; Ehinger, Herbert, Base Hospital, Camp Green; Rabbitt, Edwin, Co. B, 126 M. B. Baty.; Kintz, Eugene G., Co. 2, M. P.; Magley, Dr. L. J.; Davis, Elso R.; Roop, Rufus S., Co. E, 151st I.; Christen, Jesse F., Hdq. Co., F. A.; Colter, Earl D., Q. M. C.; Parr, H. E. G., 339th F. A.; Woods, Ulysses B., 113 E. Corps; Eley, Howard; Hirschy, Menno; Peterson, E. W., C. O. T. Bri., 165th Depot Bri.; Andrews, Harrison, Co. C, 113th F. S. Corps; Merriman, Ralph M., Baty. D, 322d F. A. M. A.; Miller, Lawrence, Co. C, 113th F. S. Bri.; Miller, Bennard J., 377th Squad., 4th Platoon, 13th Co.; Miller, Harry F., Co. 113th F. S. Bri.; Miller, Herman F., 182 Areo Squad., Aviation Field; Chronister, Fred, 8th Bat., R. O. F. C.; Hard, Otto F., Co. F, 46th I.; Gehrig, Tillman Henry; Fuller, Ralph E. H., Corps H. A., 2nd Class Naval Base Station; Fuller, Melville W., Eng. Detach.; Bebout, Harold; Colchin, Joseph A., Aero Sta., Co. 24; Holthouse, Norbert, Ordnance Dept.; Mills, Edgar M.; Burger, Paul; Grandstaff, Francis; Blackburn, Lieut. R. M., Q. M. C.; Decatchent, T. A.; Enos, Roy; Myers, Fred; Wisehaupt, Howard; Jahn, Roy; Steigmeyer, Lieut. Clem., Q. M. C.; Steigmeyer, Lynn; Fruchte, Ernest; Long, Taylor; Lord, Lawrence; Everett, Harvey; Miller, Ralph; Archer, Lloyd; Graham, Harold; Hower, Burt; Miller, Roy; Porter, Chalmer, 139th F. A. Band; Rider, Sumner; McCullough, Charles; Hunter, Floyd; Baltzell, Dent; Falk, John; Carper, Beauford; Hammond, Herman; Gessinger, Albert; Atz, Carl; Smith, Nolan A.; Weisling, Edward Daniel; Barcher, Floyd; Gaffer, John

E.; Mattox, Harold; Kohne, Raymond; Rash, Philip A.; Clark, Varlando; Warren, Charles E.; Pickett, Frank Pierce; Johnson, Ralph Lee; Burris, Fred; Gerber, George L.; Gerber, Abraham O.; Bunner, Forest Zeno; Koos, Vernon; Zeser, Timothy Herbert; McKean, Harve Wesley; Gillig, Leo Theodore; Zeaser, Daniel Joseph; Hower, Chalmer Otis; Heath, Harland Wellington; Smith, Elmo; Sprunger, Sylan; Barton, Wm.; Wells, Orville; Johnson, Ellery Edward; Lehman, Elmer M.; Miller, Harry Francis; Woodruff, Parker Curtis; Neuenschwander, Omer; Christener, Albert; Neuenschwander, Abraham; Reusser, Omer; Walter, Robert Kenyon; Sprunger, Walter; Debolt, William P.; Christen, Jesse F., Hdg. Co., 189th F. A.; Nesswald, Anthony John; Halberstadt, George Glen; Eichenberger, Edward; Debolt, Rudolph Floyd; Long, Archie A.; Coffelt, Roy; Wood, W. B.; Rumschlag, Albert Henry; Liechty, John P.; Zeser, Edward Conrad; Jahn, Roy Gideon; Parent, Omer; Gerber, Joseph Emanuel; Baxter, E.; Bruchy, Daniel; Grey, Rolan C.; Sprague, Floyd Joshua; Brunner, Herman; Andrews, Harrison; Hammond, Lewis; Callihan, Thomas F.; Miller, Peter Lawrence; Omlor, Lawrence Dyonis; Murphy, James F.; Soldner, Tilman; Ziegler, Clifford; Lehman, Christian; Bailey, John L.; Mazelin, Jacob; Stucky, Jacob; Yoder, Levi; Herman, Bert Floyd; Baker, Ivan William; Hains, Chester; Liechty, Elmer; Fiske, Forest A.; Reinhart, Henry; Christy, Russell; Nussbaum, Willie; Durbin, Lawrence John; Schug, Carl; Mayer, Marcus; Ehlerding, Albert U.; Frisinger, J. F., 515 Eng. Plt.; Lee, William W.; Duff, Ross Forrest; Buckmaster, Albert A.; Case, Marion; Conner, Earl D.; Meibers, Robert E.; Nolan, Frank; Johns, Joe; Kortenbrer, Clem; Bremerkamp, Eugene.

State University's Honor Tablet

An item of interest, which may be called a side issue of the war even as it relates to Adams County, is the movement set afoot by the management of Indiana University to erect on the campus, on Foundation Day, a great bronze tablet bearing the names of all students and graduates who shall have been in any way honorably identified with the war. The tablet will be an immense one, as each individual inscription is to embrace the name, rank and record of the soldier up to the time of its erection, with a space left to record later data. In November, 1917, the Adams County contingent included the following: Lieut. Robert Peterson, of Decatur, who would have been a senior at that time; Lieut. Clem Steigmeyer, a graduate; Harvey Everett, private (not in the alphabetical list), who would have been a sophomore, and Harold Wegmeyer, who was then in the hospital corps in France.

CHAPTER XI

CITY OF DECATUR

Original Town Platted—First House and Store—J. D. Nutman Locates—A Growing Decade, 1840-50—Village or Town Government Organized—General Progress as a Town—Decatur a City—Fire Department Organized—Municipal Roster Covering Thirty Years—Improvement of Streets—Public Utilities of the '90s—City Park—Construction of the Waterworks—The Original Plant and System—Electric Department Installed—No. 2 Reservoir Built—Combined Water and Electric Services—Water Supply and Distribution—Cost and Distribution of Electric Department—Superintendents of Waterworks and Electric Service—The Public School Buildings—Superintendent Worthman's History—The Decatur Public Library—Pioneer Local Newspapers—The Adams County Democrat — The Lively Eagle — The Decatur Democrat —Decatur Evening Herald—Banks of Decatur—Industries — Horse Sales — Holland-St. Louis Sugar Works — The Churches—St. Mary's Catholic Church—Methodism in Adams County—Decatur's First Methodist Resident Pastor—First Methodist Meeting House—Progress of Decatur M. E. Church —The Presbyterian Church—Decatur Baptist Church—Zion Reformed Church—First Evangelical Church—Other Religious Bodies—Secret and Benevolent Societies—The Odd Fellows—The Masons—Knights of Pythias—The Elks' Club —Knights of Columbus—The Moose Lodge—Old Home Week.

Decatur, the metropolis and the county seat of Adams County, is situated on the physical slope and in the water system which are tributary to the Lake Erie region. Its early progress was vitally affected by this fact, as many of its pioneers and builders either came from the East, by way of Fort Wayne, or from the St. Mary's and Maumee valleys of Northwestern Ohio. As a rule, they were substantial, intelligent citizens, who had enjoyed a good taste of pioneer life, and were earnest and capable members of the newer communities in which

they settled, fully prepared to make worthy contributions to the general advancement. In the very early days, the tide of immigration threatened to assume fixed channels along the old Piqua Road on the eastern side of the St. Mary's River toward Fort Wayne, passing to the east of the Decatur site, but when it became evident that there was no immediate danger of a transfer of the county seat, travel set in strongly to the most promising center of settlement, and Decatur grew apace. In 1850 when the difference of a few miles in the geographical position of the several towns had much more bearing on the county seat question than after the railroads wiped out that consideration, there was a spasmodic attempt to snatch the seat of justice from Decatur and give it to Monroe. But the attempt and the danger passed and when the railroads commenced to enter the doors of the town in the '70s, and did not rest until three lines had been established there, the secure position of Decatur was assured. Soon afterward the village became a city, and, since that other transformation, has grown into one of the most prosperous municipalities in Northeastern Indiana.

Original Town Platted

Decatur was named in honor of the American naval hero and the original town was platted June 23, 1836, occupying a northern portion of section 3 in Washington Township. Thomas Johnson and Samuel L. Rugg were the proprietors. Their plat contained 177 lots, each 66 by 132 feet in size. The four east and west streets were Monroe, Madison, Jefferson and Adams, and those which run north and south, Front, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth. In the spring of 1838 the residents of Decatur numbered Messrs. Rugg and James Crabbs; Jacob Hofer, who had surveyed and platted the town and built the first residence on the site; George Fittich and Jacob Closs. Previous to 1839 the structures which had been erected in Decatur comprised three log cabins and two unfurnished frame buildings.

First House and Store

The first residence in Decatur and the first store are thus described in "Snow's History of Adams County": "It (the Jacob Hofer house) was located on in-lot No. 291, at the corner of Front and Jackson streets, just east of the Bosse Opera House. It was a log cabin of the pioneer type.

J. D. Nutman Locates

"The first store building was also a log structure, and was erected at the corner of Monroe and Front street on in-lot No. 274, where the Waring mitten factory is situated. The storekeeper was Henry Reichard, who came to Decatur from Willshire, Ohio, about 1838, and began a store when there were but two or three other buildings in the town. He did not long remain in Decatur, as J. D. Nutman, then a young unmarried man, came in and chose Decatur as his field of operations. He bought out Mr. Reichard's interests and began the store business. His energy and business ability soon brought him a good trade. In a few years, perhaps in 1845, he built a two-story frame building at the corner of Second and Monroe streets on in-lot No. 57, where the Holthouse & Schulte clothing store is situated. He eventually accumulated a fortune, sold his store interests and engaged in the banking business."

A Growing Decade, 1840-50

The southern addition to Decatur was platted in 1844, and extensions of the town site were soon afterward made toward the west and, eventually, toward the northwest into section 4 and northward into section 34, Root Township. During the decade from 1840 to 1850 the population slowly increased, until, by the latter year it contained forty-three families and 231 persons.

The decade mentioned was a period of many local improvements. James Crabbs and Jacob Closs had taverns, which were in full swing —the former since 1838 and the latter since 1844. Mr. Crabbs had also opened a store in 1845, in competition with the Nutman concern, and since 1840 Mr. Rugg had been residing in a sure-enough brick house, the first of the kind in Decatur. At the close of this decade of local note Mr. Nutman, whose business had so extended that he had opened a branch at Pleasant Mills, commenced to furnish banking accommodations to the residents of the St. Mary's Valley and Northern Adams County. Mr. Nutman was Decatur's first postmaster. About 1845 he built a two-story frame store at the corner of Monroe and Second streets, and a few years afterward a little one-story brick office just south of his store on Second Street. Some called it a bank and others "Nutman's Shaving Office," as its owner was known to indulge quite industriously and profitably in the occupation of "shaving notes."

Village or Town Government Organized

Under the bright circumstances, it is little wonder that the people of Decatur commenced to look with sheep's eyes at town or village organization as an outward sign of local progress. A small frame schoolhouse stood at the corner of Second and Jackson streets and the frame house of worship which the Catholics occupied stood at the corner of Fourth and Madison streets. The Methodists were talking of putting up an even larger frame church to accommodate their increasing numbers. These two denominations had already availed themselves of the offer made by the owners of the original town to donate four lots to the religious bodies which should first improve them by the erection of church buildings. Decatur, in 1850 and the early '50s, was therefore buttressed about by noticeable advantages of material things and educational and religious accommodations.

Though formally laid out and named (in honor of the well-known naval hero) in 1836, it was some years later before it was even much of a village. Previous to 1839 there were but three cabins and two unfurnished frames here. The residents in the spring of 1838 were Samuel L. Rugg, James Crabbs, Jacob Hofer, Fittick and Closs. During the decade from 1840 to 1850 the population slowly increased to about 250.

After considerable agitation, the State Legislature authorized the voters of Decatur to decide whether or not they desired to become an incorporated town. The matter was decided in the affirmative, at an election held on the last day of December, 1853. The town then had a population of 287 and sixty-four votes were cast in the election. Jacob King, David Humbert and William G. Spencer were inspectors of election, which resulted in the choice of the following trustees: District No. 1, James Crabbs; District No. 2, James Stoops; District No. 3, Thomas J. Pearce; District No. 4, Jacob Crabbs; District No. 5, Parker L. Wise. William G. Spencer was chosen clerk and also treasurer; and Hamilton J. Wise was elected marshal and assessor. In May following the first regular election was held, and the officers elected were: Trustees, J. D. Nutman, Simon Friberger, James Stoops, David McDonald and Jacob Bodle; treasurer, A. Bollman; clerk and assessor, William G. Spencer; marshal, A. Bollman.

General Progress as a Town

Decatur remained under town government for nearly thirty years, and that period was the one of its greatest changes. For some twenty-

five years of that era about a dozen local newspapers had come and gone, leaving at last only the Democrat and the Journal. The latter had been alive only a few years in 1882, while the Democrat was the virtual successor of the old Eagle of 1857.

The churches had also had a varied experience. The Presbyterians had early come into the field with a new church building, and both the German Reformed Society and the Evangelical Association had organized at a later period. Still later, in the early '80s, the women had rallied to the standard of the Christian Temperance Union, and

Two Decatur Pioneers

the Masons organized a lodge. The Adams County Bank had been in business for nearly ten years and the First National was to open its doors about a year after Decatur was incorporated as a city. Not long previous to the assumption of that dignity, it had been twice chastened by fire—in 1878 and 1882—and those who have ever extracted good from such happenings hold that they cleared away "quite a-many" inferior, if not disgraceful wooden buildings, in order that those of a better grade, mostly brick, might replace them. The fire of 1878 swept along the east side of Second Street from east of Court to Madison, and that of September, 1882, along the same side

of that thoroughfare from Madison to Monroe. It may be that the better class of buildings which appeared after the conflagration of 1878 had something to do with the general demand for better streets; at all events, in 1890 its main streets commenced to be graveled and paved and, within a few years, the city assumed the work and macadamized streets appeared.

By 1860 there were 500 inhabitants in Decatur; by 1870, 1,000; and in 1880 the enumeration footed up 1,905. The construction of the Cincinnati, Richmond & Fort Wayne Railroad in 1871 fixed Decatur as the county seat, so that the present substantial courthouse was built soon after, and raised the place to the dignity of an important town. The building of the narrow gauge road in 1878, and the Chicago & Atlantic in 1881 and 1882 added greatly to the prospects of the growing county seat, which now has an assured future, as a residence, business and manufacturing town.

The dozen years preceding the incorporation of the city brought large additions to the original town site. The County Seminary Addition in North Decatur, south of the Waterworks Park, was laid out into lots, from 1 to 12. North of the Seminary Addition to the juncture of Third and Fifth streets is a part of the ten acres donated by Samuel L. Rugg to secure the location of the county seat at Decatur. In June, 1875, this ground was platted into town lots by County Commissioners George W. Luckey, George Frank and Benjamin Runyon.

Decatur a City

Decatur was incorporated as a city on the 5th of September, 1882, and the officers elected and appointed to serve during the following year (1882-83) were as follows: James T. Merryman, mayor; L. J. Gast, city clerk; Henry H. Bremerkamp, treasurer; Robert Malonee, marshal; J. T. Simcoke, city engineer; J. T. Archbold, street commissioner; E. A. Huffman, attorney. Members of the first city council: First Ward, D. O. Jackson and George W. Patterson; Second Ward, J. H. Voglewede and Solomon Linn; Third Ward, William P. Moon and Jesse Niblick.

The officers for 1883-84 and 1884-85 were the same, except that B. H. Dent served as mayor, H. C. Stetler succeeded Solomon Linn as councilman in the Second Ward and S. Spangler was elected in place of W. P. Moon, in the Third Ward.

Fire Department Organized

A department for protection against fire was organized in Decatur before the end of the year 1885. James Hurst was its first chief, and the apparatus included a hand-engine, hose-cart with 800 feet of hose, and a hook and ladder truck, each manned by a volunteer company. Since that year the department has developed into one of the most efficient organizations of the kind in Northern Indiana, although much of the responsibility for the protection of property has devolved upon the waterworks system. The present chief of the fire department is Henry Dellinger and the apparatus, which is housed in fine quarters in the city hall building, comprises a handsome and powerful auto-fire-engine, a hook and ladder, hose-cart and an abundant supply of hose. All but two of the twenty members of the department are volunteers.

Municipal Roster Covering Thirty Years

In 1886-87, thirty-two years ago, the following officers were serving the city: Mayor, D. D. Heller; clerk, J. C. Patterson; treasurer, H. H. Bremerkamp; marshal, Robert Malonee; attorney, E. A. Huffman; engineer, J. W. Tyndall. The city council: First Ward, W. S. Congleton (succeeded by A. L. De Vilbiss, in October, 1886) and Henry Krick; Second Ward, James H. Stone and H. Stetler; Third Ward, S. Spangler and Jesse Niblick.

The mayors who served the city during the twenty years from 1887 to 1907 were as follows: B. H. Dent, elected in May, 1887, and re-elected in May, 1889, but died on December 29, 1890; W. H. Reed, elected at a special election held on January 23, 1891, served out Mr. Dent's unexpired term, was re-elected for the full term, 1891-93, but served until September, 1894, on account of change in law as to the time of choosing municipal officers; B. W. Quinn, 1894-98; A. P. Beatty, 1898-1902; D. D. Coffee, elected in 1902, 1904 and 1906—on January 15th of the last named year for a four-year term.

In 1907 the municipal officers were: Mayor, David D. Coffee; city marshal, Edward Green; Carl O. France, city clerk; William J. Archbold, city treasurer; James D. Stults, street commissioner; William H. Fulk, superintendent of the waterworks; H. C. Voght, city engineer; Lewis C. DeVoss, city attorney; city councilmen, Jacob Martin, Millen Burns, Isaac Chronister, Charles N. Christen and Anson Van Camp.

Mr. Coffee was impeached as mayor in 1907, and was succeeded

by C. O. France. Judson W. Teeple was mayor in 1909-13 and Charles N. Christen from the latter year until 1917, when Charles W. Yager was elected.

Thomas Ehinger was appointed city clerk to succeed Carl O. France, in 1907, the latter having been elected mayor of the city. In 1909 Mr. Ehinger was succeeded by H. M. DeVoss, who continued to serve as city clerk until 1917, when R. G. Christen was elected to the office.

As to the councilmen-at-large, Jacob Martin has served since 1907. Levi L. Baumgartner held the postion from 1913 to 1916, when he resigned to accept the position of city engineer, which he still holds. J. M. Miller was appointed in Mr. Baumgartner's place and elected for the full term in the fall of 1917.

W. J. Archbold was city treasurer from 1897 to 1913, and Joseph D. McFarland since the latter year. He was re-elected with almost the entire democratic ticket in the municipal election of 1917.

The ward councilmen now serving as a result of that election are: First Ward, H. Fred Linn; Second Ward, John Logan; Third Ward, L. C. Helm. Councilmen-at-large: Jacob Martin and Dr. J. M. Miller.

L. C. Helm was chief of the fire department in 1907; Louis Hammond served from 1909-13, and O. B. Wemhoff was its head until January, 1918, when H. Dellinger succeeded him.

Edward Green, now sheriff of the county, was city marshal for many years preceding 1909. He was succeeded by Frank S. Peterson in the year named. Mr. Peterson served until 1913, when Sephus Melchi was appointed by the city council. Fred Hancher was appointed January 7, 1918.

The city hall, which is the headquarters of the municipal officers and the city council, with the fire department, is a large modern two-story brick building, completed in May, 1912, at a cost (including the fire apparatus) of about $26,000. The accommodations for both the fire and police departments are on the ground floor, while the council chamber and the offices of the city clerk, treasurer, engineer and superintendent of the waterworks and electric department are in the second story. It is a handsome structure, a real credit to the city. Before it was completed the council room was in the library building, and the central fire station at No. 87 Monroe Street.

Improvement of Streets

The late '80s and the early '90s witnessed rapid improvements of a public nature in Decatur. In 1889 the work of macadamizing some

of the streets, which had been agitated ever since the place was incorporated as a city, commenced in earnest, under contracts mainly prosecuted by Rice & Bowers and Robinson & Gillig. Within the succeeding five years most of the wooden walks on the main streets were replaced by those of cement, and not a few of the thoroughfares were improved with brick pavements. Second Street, which for ten years had been distinguished by its "cobble stone" pavement, was clad in a brick suit from Monroe to Jefferson, in 1893. In the fol-

Typical Street Improvements

lowing year the improvement was extended to Mercer and Winchester streets at the Five Points. According to the figures furnished by City Engineer L. L. Baumgartner there are now nearly fifteen miles of improved streets, of which eight miles are of brick and six of macadam. In 1906 the city council required Second Street north of Madison to be provided with cement walks at least five feet in width, and that move was the commencement of the systematic improvement in that line which has brought so marked a change for the better in the general appearance of Decatur's most frequented thoroughfares.

There are now about thirty-two miles of sidewalks within the city limits.

Public Utilities of the '90s

The very complete and strictly modern municipal plant and system through which the citizens of Decatur are furnished water and electric light and power in abundance were placed in service in January, 1896. The Edwards Electric Light Plant had been started as a private enterprise, in 1892, and a number of arc street lights had already been installed for the city. In the same year natural gas was first piped in from the Camden field. As private consumers had also patronized the Edwards Electric Light Company, the public was being placed in an appreciative attitude toward these utilities and conveniences. In 1894 the Citizens Telephone Company had also been placed in operation and Decatur could talk and cooperate with Berne and a large extent of adjacent country. Private enterprise and management had advantageously placed these conveniences and agents of progress within general reach, and the citizens of Decatur were, on the whole, satisfied with this arrangement. But, in the matter of water supply and the better protection of property interests against fire, the sentiment increased in strength favorable to the establishment of a municipal plant, fully responsible to the city for its efficiency. When that point had been decided, it logically followed that the means of supplying both water and electricity should be combined in one plant. Under modern mechanical conditions the two are natural twins.

City Park

The present site of the plant used jointly by the water and light departments of the municipality was bought by the city from the board of county commissioners in September, 1892, and is known as City Park. It is irregular in shape, 337 feet on Maple Street, 537 feet on Park, 437 feet on Fifth and 475 feet on Third, and contains 190,969 square feet, or 4.384 acres. The power house, two reservoirs and ten wells are all located on this ground. The location is readily accessible, being about four squares from the business section.

The original plans and specifications were thrown out, first, because the Toledo Construction Company to which the contract was awarded did not comply with certain necessary requirements and, secondly, because the city engineer pronounced them inadequate to meet the probable future of the city. Thus the fall of 1894 and the

early spring of 1895 passed, with the waterworks still uncertain. Another attempt to commence the work in May, 1895, under a new set of plans and specifications, was prevented by injunction proceedings through the courts.

Construction of the Waterworks

Then the Decatur Waterworks Company was formed, with G. Christen as president and E. X. Ehinger as secretary. On June 5, 1895, the company named was granted the right to construct, maintain and operate a system of waterworks in Decatur, and, with that authority from the city council contracts were made for the building of the works with the Howe Pump and Engine Company of Indianapolis, Indiana. The plant was erected by the Indianapolis concern and turned over to the Decatur Waterworks Company on January 7, 1896, for the contract price of $63,500, with certain minor amounts which were added as extras due to changes in the original plans. This price did not include real estate or drilling of wells. The city had previously contracted with a firm of well drillers for the latter work, so that the total cost of the water department, as originally installed, was $71,144.51.

The Original Plant and System

The original building consisted of the rooms now occupied by the water pumps and the air compressor, and the one occupied by electric engine No. 2. The latter was the boiler room. The two Worthington pumps were installed in their present location and the air compressor was placed in the basement, being moved to its present location at the time the room containing electric engine No. 1 was built in 1897. Originally, three boilers were installed. These are now used as feedwater heaters, having been replaced by two of the present set of boilers in 1909.

The original installation consisted of wells Nos. 1 to 7, inclusive, and the old, or No. 1 reservoir. The pipe lines in the distribution system comprised eleven miles and ranged in size from four- to twelve-inch pipes.

Electric Department Installed

In 1897 the city decided to install an electric department and engine No. 1 was purchased and the addition to the station building

erected. Owing to the increase in electric current consumption, it was found necessary, in 1907, to add several units to the electrical equipment. The present boiler room was then built and equipped as now, and the new engine No. 2 installed in the old boiler room.

No. 2 Reservoir Built

During 1913 the fire underwriters recommended certain changes and additions to the water plant and, as a consequence, reservoir No. 2 was built in 1914. Some improvements have also been made in the distribution systems of both departments, the electrical distribution growing faster than the water.

Combined Water and Electric Services

The combined plants now serve practically all the industrial establishments with electric current for power and lighting, and water for all users, as well as fire protection and street lighting for the entire city. There are about 860 electric light consumers, 50 electric power consumers and 700 water consumers. All such services are metered. According to the latest accessible figures supplied by the city water and light department, the water system has cost the municipality nearly $184,000 and the electric plant $82,000. Allowing for depreciation of property, it is estimated that the present value of the waterworks is $134,000 and of the electric plant and system, $54,000.

The chief items in the cost of the construction of the water department were as follows: Real estate, $8,820; source of supply (wells, etc.), $20,147; distribution system (cost of pipes, laying, etc.), $91,833; paving, $42,842.

Water Supply and Distribution

The water supply is drawn from ten deep wells located in the north part of the plat. Nine of them are eight feet in diameter and one, ten feet, and they have an average depth of 250 feet. Most of the wells are pumped by compressed air. There are two storage reservoirs, the older one being 33 feet in diameter and 21 feet deep, with brick walls 3 feet thick at the bottom and 22 inches at the top, and a brick floor 14 inches thick. It is covered by a circular brick house, well ventilated and lighted. The capacity of the old, or No. 1 reservoir, is 135,000 gallons. The new reservoir, completed in March,

1914, is of reinforced concrete, 56 feet in diameter and 14 feet in depth. It is covered with a flat concrete roof 8 inches thick, supported by 10 columns and thoroughly ventilated. The side walls are 9 inches thick and the floor, 6 inches thick. It is connected with piping in such a way that either reservoir may be out of use for cleaning, or both may be in use at the same time. The capacity of the second reservoir is 214,000 gallons. The cost of the old reservoir was $5,580; of the new, $3,999.

The water distribution system embraces nearly 13 miles of pipe, mostly 4-, 6- and 8-inch, divided as follows: 6-inch pipe, 35,268 feet; 4-inch, 13,886; 8-inch, 10,245. The cost of laying the pipe was nearly $70,000.

Cost and Distribution of Electric Department

The cost items embraced in the electric department since it was established in 1897 are as follows: Real estate, $3,780; building, $8,817; steam generation equipment, $9,818.53; generating equipment, $23,460; auxiliary equipment, $8,577.25; distribution system, $26,892.95; miscellaneous supplies, $500. Total, $81,845.73.

The electric distribution system comprises two arc circuits, a primary and secondary circuit, all being generally carried on the same poles. There are only a few poles carrying individual circuits. There are more than 100 arc lamps and Watt alley lights. In the arc circuits 70,636 feet of wire are used; in the primary, 126,779, and in the secondary, 189,780.

Superintendents of Waterworks and Electric Service

The present superintendent of the joint plant, Martin J. Mylott, has been connected with the service for many years, and has had much to do with maintaining the departments up to a high grade of efficiency.

John W. Tyndall was first superintendent of the waterworks, serving from 1897 to 1904; H. B. Knoff, 1904-06; W. E. Fulk, 1906-08; C. Vogt, 1908-11, the management of both waterworks and electric service being combined in one superintendency during September of the latter year. Martin J. Mylott was superintendent of the electric light and power system in 1897-1900; A. E. Rose and W. Stephenson, in 1900-01, and Mr. Mylott during the succeeding decade. Since September, 1911, he has been superintendent of both departments of the city service.

The Public School Buildings

Decatur has always given much attention to matters relating to its public schools. As has been stated, the first of its buildings specially dedicated to the education of its juveniles was a small round log house located near Jackson Street east of Second. This was displaced by a little frame schoolhouse at the corner of the streets named, and when the town was incorporated an even more pretentious building was erected and opened—a six-room two-story frame, corner of Jefferson and Fourth streets. It cost $3,000, was 40 by 60 feet in dimensions, and was in use until 1886, when it was sold to Henry Krick and moved to Second Street, where it is now used as a warehouse and store. In 1880, when the building had become uncomfortably crowded, a one-story frame schoolhouse was erected on the same lot for the primary pupils.

When the old frame schoolhouse was moved to Second Street, the city commenced the erection of what was then a large modern Central schoolhouse. It was completed July 1, 1886, at a cost of $16,000, and was then described as: "The present model schoolhouse is two stories in height, contains eight rooms and is heated by furnace (Smead & Company, of Toledo). It is all paid for, and there are no bonds to pay interest on. The course of study now in use was adopted in 1879, when Dr. S. G. Hastings was principal."

When the first Central Building was opened to pupils there was an enrollment of 521 in the Decatur schools, with an average daily attendance of 372. The teachers' payroll amounted to $3,216 for the year and the total expenditures for school purposes fell a little below $4,000. The High School offered a three years' course, fitting pupils either for college, or for the "school of life." There was also a one-year post-graduate (normal) course for the training of those who planned to teach. Classes had been graduating from the high school since 1881. Although improvements were made in the furnishings and accommodations of the old Central Building during the twenty years of its occupancy, in 1906 the growing demands of the higher grades resulted in a large addition being made to the southern portion of the structure. With that increase in accommodations, no other or larger schoolhouses were erected until 1917, when the magnificent high school building now occupied was virtually completed.

Besides the Central Building and the new high school, Decatur has three two-story four-room buildings to accommodate the pupils of the west, north and south wards.

Superintendent Worthman's History

Martin F. Worthman, the present superintendent of schools, has furnished the following information concerning the local educational system of today.

"The first temple of learning in Decatur was a log school building erected on in-lot 270 just across the street from where the new Interurban station now stands, and was built in 1839. Up to this time Adams county had two other school log buildings. One in Root township, (Gorsline School), and the other one in Washington Township, (McHugh School).

The High School, Decatur

"The Decatur first log school building was thirty feet long, twenty feet wide and eight feet high. It had a puncheon floor, stick chimney, a fire place, five feet wide, puncheon benches without any backs, and a door on wooden hinges. Greased paper let in the light and kept out the wind. Straw mixed with mud plugged the cracks. In 1841 a box stove replaced the large fire place. This building was a community centre. It was used for school works, for church gatherings, for town purposes, for singing school and for spelling bees. The first teacher in this building was Parker Wise. He received $12.00 a month.

"In 1845, on account of crowded conditions a second school building was built at the rear of the lot on which the first one stood. The

second building was a 'chip out of the old block,' its capacity was doubled, the stick chimney was replaced by brick and stone. It was ceiled with green lumber consequently there was no lack of fresh air. Candles at first furnished light for their airy debates and singing schools.

"In 1854 the School Board erected a frame building, one hundred feet by one-hundred-two, by fifty, on the lot where the two buildings now stand. It cost $3,000. This building contained 6 rooms and a box stove in each room. The mill boards, glass windows, seats with backs, white washed walls, were features newly added. In 1886 this building was moved from the Central school lot to lot 45 on Second Street. This building which at one time was the fountain for outpouring of wisdom is now a seed store and a coal exchange. Mr. Carrol and Son occupies it at present. After this old frame building was taken away it was replaced by a brick structure. The cost of erection was $11,990. Mr. Solomon Linn was its contractor. This building contains the 'Rutten Smead' ventilation system and the 'Rutten Smead' heating equipment. However in 1906 on account of crowded conditions the school board added a large assembly room for the high school and two rooms for eighth grade work. This addition cost $7,790. Mr. W. M. Christen was contractor.

"In 1889 David Studabaker sold in-lots No. 243, 244, 245, to the Decatur school board for $700. Upon these lots the West Ward building or Riley building as it was named was erected in March, 1917. It was named after James Whitcomb Riley. The erection of the Riley building cost $6,747.

"On May 27, 1893, John Niblick and William Blackburn, allowed a contract for a school building in the Third Ward. Robison and Selly erected the north ward building, as it now stands, at the cost of $9,495.

"On January 9, 1896, A. J. Smith and J. E. Kern contracted with Mr. J. W. Merryman to erect a school building in the First Ward at a total cost of $8,702.

"In August, 1917, the Decatur School Board composed of R. D. Myers, J. S. Falk and A. D. Suttles, entered into a contract with E. S. Peterson, a contractor from Chicago, to build a new high school building. This new high school building stands at the corner of Fifth and Adams Street. Its capacity of twenty-eight rooms is fitted out with the newest and latest equipments. It has indirect lighting system, ('Split System') for ventilation and heating, inter-communicating telephone system, and vacuum machine for sweeping and shower rooms. The building is completely a fireproof structure and will cost

the school board $93,000. The building including the gymnasium and auditorium was to have cost $128,000 but since there was a lack of funds the erection of a gymnasium and auditorium addition will take place later. However at present the board is trying its best to secure enough money to erect this at once."

The superintendents of the Decatur public schools from the organization of the high school in 1878 to the present time have been as follows: S. G. Hastings, 1878-1881; C. G. White, 1881-1883; G. W. A. Luckey, 1883-1887; C. A. Dugan, 1887-1891; J. Lewis, 1891-1892; A. D. Moffett, 1892-1897; W. F. Brittson, 1897-1899; H. A. Hartman, 1899-1906; Wm. Bechler, 1906-1909; E. E. Rice, 1909-1913; C. E. Spaulding, 1913-1916; and M. F. Worthman, 1916—.

The enrollment of the Decatur High School for each year beginning with 1878; also total enrollment of both grades and high school, together with the number in the teaching force, is as follows:

School Year—	High School	In Grades and High School	No. of Teachers
1878-1879	19	303	6
1879-1880	33	303	6
1880-1881	26	308	6
1881-1882	23	357	8
1882-1883	20	411	8
1883-1884	24	456	9
1884-1885	34	395	8
1885-1886	40	445	9
1886-1887	39	534	10
1887-1888	39	543	10
1888-1889	46	554	11
1889-1890	44	585	11
1890-1891	37	637	12
1891-1892	60	658	13
1892-1893	43	749	13
1893-1894	56	727	17
1894-1895	106	758	17
1895-1896	108	826	18
1896-1897	105	835	18
1897-1898	78	785	19
1898-1899	81	766	20
1899-1900	76	826	21
1900-1901	67	818	22

School Year—	High School	In Grades and High School	No. of Teachers
1901-1902	66	737	23
1902-1903	67	817	23
1903-1904	69	777	23
1904-1905	69	718	23
1905-1906	84	767	23
1906-1907	83	737	23
1907-1908	98	741	24
1908-1909	111	781	24
1909-1910	138	797	24
1910-1911	155	781	24
1911-1912	170	818	25
1912-1913	206	880	26
1913-1914	208	974	28
1914-1915	215	940	29
1915-1916	209	932	29
1916-1917	187	930	29
1917-1918	178	928	29

The Decatur Public Library

Decatur is also fortunate in having one of the most complete and best-managed libraries in Northeastern Indiana. It is in the business center, nearly opposite the court house, and occupies an elevated and imposing site. The movement which finally culminated in the established library was launched in 1904 by a few club members and the Board of Education, George Woodward being at the time president of that body. In July of the year named a Public Library Board was formed comprising Rev. E. A. Allen (president), Sara Y. Kenyon (vice president), C. J. Lutz (secretary) and E. X. Ehinger (treasurer); with Mesdames Morrison, and Ellingham, and T. C. Corbett, members. On the 24th of October, 1904, a donation of $10,000 was secured from Andrew Carnegie, which was increased on June 8, 1905, to $12,000. A lot on South Third Street was then purchased; plans and specifications were accepted from Oscar Hoffman, Mann & Christen were awarded the building contract, and minor specialties in the construction and finishing were arranged.

The library building was dedicated and presented to the city on July 19, 1906, and as it now stands the ornate property is valued at about $15,000. In June, 1905, Miss Annette L. Moses was elected

librarian; in the following August, President Allen moved from the city and Mrs. Elizabeth Morrison was chosen head of the Library Board, serving as such until September, 1912. In September, 1905, M. Kirsch was appointed to succeed Mr. Allen as a member of the Board. In 1905 the School Board also transferred its library to the Carnegie building, and as the collection numbered about 1,000 books, with another 200 added by citizens as gifts, that action may be said to mark the funding of the institution on a substantial basis.

The building is beautiful, convenient and, in every respect, modern in its architecture and appointments, and, what is more to the point, with Decatur people, it is purely a home product, architects,

THE DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

contractors, builders, furnishers and supporters being all residents of the city. The library itself is maintained by a tax of seven mills on the dollar of city property.

In July, 1908, H. B. Heller succeeded C. J. Lutz as secretary of the Library Board, and Mrs. C. D. Lewton was added as a member. At the same time Miss Nellie M. Blackburn was placed in charge of the Sunday work, to succeed Miss Jessie Blossom. In August, 1914, Miss Nellie M. Blackburn was elected assistant librarian.

The reports of the work accomplished from year to year show a steady development in all directions. The circulation has increased from about 9,000 to 27,000; at the present time the actual number of volumes is 8,000; periodicals, 38; newspapers, 7. In October, 1915,

Washington Township was made an auxiliary, a tax of two mills on the dollar being assessed for the extension of such privileges; nine substations were also established, to accommodate the corresponding number of school districts. The influence of the Decatur Public Library is therefore active and widespread. Its present official Board is as follows: President, Mrs. John Niblick; vice president, Mrs. C. D. Lewton; secretary, H. B. Heller; treasurer, E. X. Ehinger; members of the Board, Mrs. Mary Eley, M. Kirsch and T. C. Corbett.

Pioneer Local Newspapers

The local press of Decatur has been active for seventy years, having experienced its full share of ventures which have fallen by the wayside; the living progeny comprises two newspapers, the Democrat and the Herald. In their columns are crystallized the news of the county and the country, the sentiments of the local community and the political views of Democracy and Republicanism.

The first newspaper to appear in Decatur was the Gazette, which was issued in the summer of 1845 by Joshua Randall as proprietor and James H. Smith as editor. It was a Whig paper, and in 1851 was purchased by John W. Peterson, who, in the following year sold it to James B. Simcoke.

The Adams County Democrat

Mr. Simcoke discontinued the Gazette and in 1852 established the Adams County Democrat. The original owners of the Gazette lived in Monmouth, which, in the year named was considerable more of a town than Decatur. It was larger and its outlook was considered by many to be brighter, as it was then on the direct line of travel between Fort Wayne and Western Ohio. But Mr. Simcoke was confident that Decatur was the coming place, and acted accordingly in making the county seat the headquarters of the new Adams County Democrat. He was an ardent advocate of the Fort Wayne, Decatur & Piqua Plank Road, which was designed to slightly change the direction of the current of travel so that Decatur, on the western shore of the St. Mary's River, should be included in its course. This was brought about largely through the activity of Mr. Simcoke and the Democrat, and the Piqua Plank Road stimulated Decatur as nothing had before. The town and surrounding country settled quite rapidly; so rapidly, that a rival newspaper entered the field in 1857. As editor Simcoke was also County Clerk

Simcoke, he had political rivals to meet, as well as those of newspaperdom. The Democratic party was divided into several national factions, which had their counterpart in Adams County. Mr. Simcoke was a Breckenridge Democrat, and played a losing game both in politics and newspaper warfare. He was wounded when the Decatur Eagle was founded as an opposition Democratic paper in 1857, received a terrible thrust when Breckenridge was defeated for the presidency in 1860, and in 1863 his political and journalistic status had reached such a low ebb that the Adams County Democrat suspended altogether. Although he still supported the paper, T. Adlespurger had become its owner, as well as a candidate for county auditor. W. G. Spencer had succeeded Mr. Phillips as editor of the Eagle, and he was also opposing Mr. Adlespurger in the race for the county auditorship. Mr. Spencer was elected to the office and the final quietus was placed on the career of the Adams County Democrat.

The Lively Eagle

In 1863, A. J. Hill, who had been ably editing the Eagle for several years, commenced his honorable service as a soldier of the Civil War. His record is given in the chapter on "Military and War Matters." While he was away at the front, from that time until May, 1865, the Eagle office was a lively place. The plant was leased by Mr. Hill, and in 1864 re-leased to Callen & Hudgel. Dan J. Callen was a sharp, bold writer, and said things in the Eagle about the conduct of the war which caused his arrest by Federal authorities and his trial before a military court at Indianapolis. When Captain Hill returned to the Eagle, in 1865, its affairs had become more composed under the editorial and business management of James R. Bobo and T. Adlespurger. Mr. Hill continued to publish and edit the paper until November, 1874, when he sold it to Joseph McGonagle, who discontinued the Eagle and started the Decatur Democrat.

The Decatur Democrat

In May of the preceding year the Decatur Herald had been started as a rival of the Eagle by Seymour Worden, then county auditor, and James R. Bobo, county attorney. When Mr. McGonagle bought the Eagle of Captain Hill and discontinued it, the publishers of the Herald also ended the existence of that paper; so that the Decatur Democrat occupied the entire field.

In 1879 the Decatur Democrat passed to the ownership of

S. Ray Williams, and in 1881-83 it was in the hands of Capt. A. J. Hill and Roth & Cummons (of Bluffton). Norval Blackburn was its editor and proprietor from the fall of 1883 to August, 1896, when the office and plant were sold to the Democratic Press Company, in which Lew G. Ellingham held a controlling interest. Mr. Ellingham, although still a young man, had had newspaper experience at Winchester and Geneva, and in 1894 had moved to Decatur and founded the Democratic Press. In August, 1896, the stock company which he formed purchased the Decatur Democrat. In July of the following year he became the owner of all the stock of the Democratic Press Company, and on January 12, 1903, founded the Daily Democrat. Mr. Ellingham purchased the daily edition of the Decatur Journal in July, 1906, and consolidated it with the Daily Democrat. The Journal had established the pioneer daily of Decatur in 1897, while under the editorship of Frank E. Everett, the paper then having been alive for a period of eighteen years. Both the daily and weekly editions of the Democrat have since been published by the Decatur Democrat Company, of which John H. Heller is president and Arthur R. Holthouse, secretary. Mr. Heller also has the editorial management of the paper. Mr. Ellingham had control of the publishing company until November, 1910, when he was elected Secretary of State and, assuming that office, turned the editorial pen over to Mr. Heller, who had been associated with him for many years and who had managed the Daily Democrat since its foundation. In May, 1916, Mr. Ellingham purchased a half-interest in the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette and sold his entire interest in the Decatur Democrat to Mr. Heller.

Decatur Evening Herald

The Evening Herald, of Decatur, is an outgrowth of the Decatur Journal, the first number of which appeared September 16, 1879, with D. G. M. Trout as editor and George S. Staunton as publisher. It was the second republican newspaper published in the county, the Young American, which was established about three years after the birth of the party and which suspended in 1860, being the first organ of the republicans in Adams County. Within a dozen years from the founding of the Journal, in 1879, Mr. Trout had been succeeded by E. A. Phillips, then the veteran of local editors; Shaffer Peterson, E. D. Moffett, B. W. Sholty, Kirby & Andrews, and William E. Ashcraft. Mr. Ashcraft, in 1892, installed the first steam power press at Decatur. From that year until 1906, when the Jour-

nal went into the hands of a receiver, the plant and the good will of the paper were owned by Douglas & Porter, Frank E. Everetts, C. M. Kenyon, and Harry Daniels. Soon afterward Philip L. Andrews, who had served a term as postmaster, was a lawyer by profession, and earlier still a school-teacher, assumed charge of the Journal as its editor and business manager. In 1911 the Decatur Herald Company was incorporated to conduct it. Mr. Andrews is identified with the paper as city editor. The active officers of the company are as follows: Morton Stults, president; C. A. Butler, vice president; C. F. Davison, secretary-treasurer, editor and manager.

Banks of Decatur

The industries and business of Decatur maintain the general current of their activities through the medium of three financial institutions—the Old Adams County Bank, the First National Bank and the People's Loan and Trust Company. An account has already been given of the indirect origin of the Old Adams County Bank, when, as early as 1857, Joseph D. Nutman, the old store-keeper, started a private concern called by some of the local business men a "shaving office." Just before the Civil war broke out it was moved to Fort Wayne, and no further attempt was made to found a similar institution until nearly a decade afterward. In 1871 Mr. Nutman and Jesse Niblick became associated in a private banking enterprise, under the name of Niblick & Nutman. In November of that year, Robert W. Allison, then a merchant at Buena Vista, and David Studabaker, a Decatur lawyer, were admitted to the partnership, the style of which became Niblick, Nutman & Company. In 1872 Mr. Nutman retired from active membership, the firm name becoming Niblick, Studabaker & Company.

In August, 1874, the Adams County Bank was organized under a state charter, with a capital of $50,000, which was increased to $75,000 in 1882. Jesse Niblick was the first president of the bank, and it was under his management, in 1876, that the building it still occupies on the northwest corner of Second and Monroe streets was erected. David Studabaker was its first vice president. The first charter of the bank expired in 1894, and it was renewed under the name of the "Old Adams County Bank." Jesse Niblick was then succeeded by his son, William H. Niblick, and the father and founder of the bank died in October of the following year. The new president did not long survive his own election, as his death occurred in November, 1896. William H. Niblick was succeeded in the presidency by Robert

B. Allison, the first cashier. Charles S. Niblick, another son of Jesse, was elected cashier of the bank in 1896, and in December, 1906, became its president at the resignation of Mr. Allison. Since that time, or, officially, since January 1, 1907, Edward X. Ehinger has been cashier of the bank.

In 1914 the institution was rechartered under the name of the "Old Adams County Bank." It has a capital, at the present time, of about $10,000; surplus of $10,000, and resources of $1,200,000.

The First National Bank of Decatur was founded in that place in 1883. On the 16th of July, of that year, it was incorporated by these residents and stockholders of Decatur and Delphos (Ohio): Dr. T. T. Dorwin, president; Henry Dierkes, vice president; Gus. A. Kolbe, cashier; J. D. Hale, Godfrey Christen, B. W. Sholty, Henry H. Myers, Daniel Weldy, R. S. Peterson, J. H. Hobrock, Henderich Chrishaner, L. C. Miller, John Dirkson and J. B. Holthouse. On the 15th of the following month the bank was chartered and opened for business, with a capital of $50,000 and the officers named. In 1895 the capital was increased to $100,000. Since its organization, the First National has paid out over $250,000 in dividends to its shareholders. Its surplus and undivided profits amount of $26,000; average deposits, $875,000; total resources, $1,100,000.

Since the founding of the First National Bank of Decatur its management has comprised the following officers: Presidents—Dr. Thomas T. Dorwin, 1883-93; P. W. Smith, 1893—

Vice presidents—Henry Dierkes, 1883-87; P. W. Smith, 1887-93; Daniel Weldy, 1893-95; J. B. Holthouse, 1895-99; W. A. Kuebler, 1899—

Cashiers—Gus Kalke, 1883-86; Henry Oberwagner, 1886-87; R. S. Peterson, 1887-94; C. A. Dugan, 1894—

The People's Loan and Trust Company is the youngest of the city's financial institutions. It was organized in January, 1915, with the following officers: James Rupel, Bryant, Ind., president; John La Follette, Portland, Ind., vice president; Mathias Kirsch, cashier; W. A. Lower, secretary. The capital of the company is $50,000; resources, $330,000.

Mr. Rupel died early in 1918. He retired as president of the trust company in November, 1917, Mathias Hirsch succeeding him as president.

Industries

Decatur has never striven to become a manufacturing center, with all that term implies—smoke, dirt, unsightly blots on the city and un-

sanitary conditions, which always accompany congestion of population, whether in large or small areas. The manufactories which have arisen naturally and in response to a compelling demand, on the other hand, have been supported and encouraged. As the city is the center of a large, productive and thrifty country a number of industries have been established and have flourished, especially within recent years. The sugar beet factory, the tile works, the Adams County creamery, the Hoosier packing plant, the egg case manufactory, the saddlery works and the glove factory, are all institutions in point. These and others are logical and practical outgrowths of the natural productive wealth of this section of Indiana, stimulated immensely by special war conditions. Further, in the encouragement of legitimate and feasible enterprises the Decatur Retail Merchants' Association, with a number of similar predecessors, has accomplished good results within recent years.

Horse Sales

Right in the class named is the large business in the sale of horses, which, for many years past, has given Adams County a national fame. The first large sales commenced in Decatur about a decade ago and the business has expanded so rapidly since the commencement of the world's war that they are now held regularly semi-monthly. The horses are purchased by experts in a territory with a radius of about a hundred miles from Decatur, and by the later part of 1917 the sales were averaging fully 400 head every two weeks. The great bulk of the sales was being placed by the U. S. Army, mostly for the cavalry and artillery service. As an expert in this business, or industry, no man in Indiana and Ohio is more widely known than Daniel W. Beery.

Holland-St. Louis Sugar Works

There is one industry in Decatur which is the acknowledged leader —the manufacture of sugar from beets as demonstrated at the great plant of the Holland-St. Louis Sugar Company. The capacity of the plant is 1,000 tons daily, with at least fifty tons of valuable by-products. The latter consists of the fiber, or pulp, which is left after the sugar is extracted, and a good grade of potash manufactured from the sirupy elements which fail to crystallize. The dried fibre is sold to dairymen and poultry dealers and is said to be an effective stimulant to milk-production and egg-laying. At the plant proper some 250

people are employed, night and day. It is no uncommon sight to see a hundred great open freight cars overflowing with the beets destined for the factory, which have been bought and shipped in by the buyers of the plant from the farmers of northeastern Indiana who have thus carried out their contracts with the Holland-St. Louis Sugar Company. Thus the industry gives employment to hundreds outside the actual manufacturing plant. The Decatur concern employs fifteen field men, under a local manager, who contracts with growers in the spring for specified tracts devoted to the raising of sugar beets, and, with the gathering of the crops in the fall, actively

HOLLAND-ST. LOUIS SUGAR PLANT, DECATUR

engage in the loading of the raw product and see that it is properly shipped to the factory. The field men, or agents, have under them seventy-five or a hundred men at the way stations, who attend to the manual labor of getting the beets aboard the cars, on their way to Decatur.

The Decatur manufactory is a branch of the parent enterprise established at Holland, Michigan, and there is another at St. Louis, also in that state. Of the three plants the Decatur factory has outstripped the others. Their combined output is now 25,000,000 pounds annually, and they plan to increase that by at least 5,000,000 pounds in 1918. The Decatur plant commenced operations in October, 1912, its construction having been under the immediate supervision of William Kremers, who had been identified for twelve years with the

Holland enterprise, and is still superintendent of the branch at this place which has since outgrown the parent stem.

The Churches

The nine churches of Decatur cover altogether a period of seventy years, or the biblical three score years and ten, indicative of the fact that the religious life of the city is fully matured. Several of them were established to meet the wishes of German Protestants, who were especially strong in the earlier years and are still largely represented in the membership of their descendants going to make up such churches as the German Reformed and the Evangelical Association. A large proportion of the St. Mary's Catholic church is also composed of German-Americans, many of whom would even refuse to be hyphenated. Decatur as a moral and law-abiding city certainly owes much to these elements of its population. The membership of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian churches is principally drawn from the descendants of early settlers from the East, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and the older counties of Indiana, with later accessories from the country at large.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

St. Mary's Catholic church obtained the first real foothold in Decatur and the Methodists organized about a year after first mass was celebrated by the local members of that faith. In 1836 Jacob L. Rugg, John Reynolds and Joseph Johnson platted the town of Decatur and the first named gave the square for the court house; also lots for four churches, including the Catholic. In the spring of 1838 Father Mueller celebrated the first mass in Decatur at the house of George Fettich, a little colony of Catholics having gathered at the place. Two years afterward, when their number had somewhat increased, Father Hannow came to the charge. In January, 1841, he solemnized the first Roman Catholic marriage at Decatur between Timothy Coffee and Margaret Mueller. The first Catholic baptism in the hamlet was that of Minnie Holthouse. The third local priest was Rev. Joseph Rudolph, under whom the cemetery in the southeastern part of the village was purchased. In 1846 Father E. M. Faller began the erection of the old frame church, the timbers for which were hauled to the building site by oxen through the deep mud. Until it was completed mass was said in the Fettich house, the Closs Tavern and the old court house. Father Faller also added to

the church property until it comprised half a block of land, upon which have since been erected the present house of worship, the priest's house, the Sisters' house and the school building. The first priest's house was built in 1852 and, what at the time, was called the "new" priest's house, in 1885. In 1873 the "new brick church" was finished and the Catholics of St. Mary's worshipped in it for more than thirty years, or until it commenced to be spoken of as the "old church." In 1907 a large two-story addition was made to it. The original brick schoolhouse was completed in 1881.

After Father Faller's service until 1865 quite a number of priests came and went. In the fall of the year mentioned Father John Wemhoff was placed in charge of St. Mary's parish, and it was under his pastorate that the move for a brick church was put under way. Father S. Von Schwedler completed it, and he was followed by Rev. J. Nusbaum, who gave place to Father H. Theodore Wilken. Father Wilken served St. Mary's church longer than any other of its resident priests, his pastorate extending from July 23, 1880, until his death, October 20, 1913. Rev. Julius A. Seimetz, the present incumbent, assumed the charge in February, 1914. There are 300 families within his jurisdiction. The parochial school has an enrollment of 275 pupils, with eight teachers.

Methodism in Adams County

Although the special theme of this portion of the Decatur chapter is the local Methodist organization, there are several outside matters connected with the subject that should be mentioned. Fortunately, they have lately been recorded by a veteran of the faith, Rev. W. J. Myers, who, as historian of Adams County, prepared a paper for the "North Indiana Conference History." Condensations are here made from his complete and interesting paper.

Decatur and the county were fortunate in the character of their first settlers. Like Jacob of old, they "erected an altar wherever they lodged for the night." Among these pioneer Methodists may be mentioned William Heath, Charles W. Merryman, Joseph R. Smith, Jeremiah Andrews, Levi Russell, Thomas Archbold, Thomas Fisher, Ezekiel Hooper, John Reynolds and Samuel L. Rugg. Of that list, as will be seen, are the proprietors of the original town of Decatur. In 1839 a regular Methodist class was organized in the Andrews-Smith-Merryman neighborhood, afterward called Washington. At South Salem, Monmouth and Pleasant Mills, classes had already been formed. In 1844 the Decatur class suffered a great loss in the death of John Reynolds.

Scenes During Old Home Week at Decatur, October 14-19, 1912

Decatur's First Methodist Resident Pastor

At the first session of the North Indiana Conference, held at Fort Wayne in that year, the Fort Wayne district was organized with Decatur as one of its circuits, and Elijah Lilliston was sent as its first resident pastor. He found loosely organized classes at Decatur, Washington, Salem, Pleasant Mills and Mt. Tabor (now Bobo). But he enrolled the members, organized them, planned to visit each class every two weeks; and so the work went on under these untiring circuit preachers, the classes sometimes meeting in the log schoolhouses and at other times in the homes of the different leaders. Rev. D. B. Clarey was an especially stirring brother, as he was a fine singer and a good speaker. Some of his protracted meetings were so swelled in attendance that they overflowed the bounds of the schoolhouse and had to be held in the court house.

First Methodist Meeting House

In the meantime the Methodists at and near Pleasant Mills had so increased in numbers and confidence that they decided to erect a house of worship; and they did complete one, about 1847, a mile east of that place which they called Hopewell meeting house. It was the first Methodist church building in Adams County, and is even said to have antedated the old frame St. Mary's by several months.

Progress of the Decatur Methodist Episcopal Church

The summer of 1851 also witnessed the building of a fair-sized frame church by the Decatur Methodists at the corner of Front and Jackson streets, and during the succeeding fall Rev. M. M. Hahn was sent to the circuit as pastor. More than forty years afterward the church was made into an opera house. A number of pastors followed him in quick succession; notwithstanding, the Decatur church prospered and a parsonage was built. In 1860 it became a station with Rev. Thomas Comstock as pastor. The Civil war seriously depleted the church membership and also split the church into factions. Rev. E. W. Errick went into the Union army first as captain and then as chaplain. After the war, disturbances gradually adjusted themselves. A number of pastors followed, and in 1881 Rev. J. B. Carns so increased the membership of the church that a handsome new brick house of worship was commenced at the corner of Monroe and Fifth. It was not dedicated until June, 1882, under the pastorate of Rev. M. A.

Lague. In 1890-91 the two-story frame parsonage was built and the church grounds enlarged, Rev. J. B. Work being pastor at the time. In 1896 a large addition was made to the church building, which extended the accommodations both of the auditorium and the class rooms. In 1899 the North Indiana Conference held its annual session in the enlarged and improved audience room of the Decatur church. The society, with all its auxiliaries, has steadily increased until its membership is more than 800. Rev. Fred F. Thornburg, the present pastor, has been serving since April, 1916.

The Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian church was organized in September, 1840, by Rev. Isaac A. Ogden, a member of the Presbytery of Miami. The initial meeting was held in the court house, and the following were the charter members: Samuel A. Patterson, Julia A. Patterson, Samuel Allen, Harriet Allen, David Allen and wife, William Allen, George Caskey, Elizabeth Caskey, Mary Watkins, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Patterson, Mrs. Rebecca Rice and Adam Showers. Samuel A. Patterson and David Allen were the first ruling elders. The lot originally given by the town proprietors to the Presbyterians for the erection of a church building, located on Fourth Street, was afterward sold and out-lot No. 6 purchased. As early as July, 1844, a meeting was held to commence the erection of a meeting house. Plans were adopted in the following year, but nothing decisive was accomplished for nearly ten years. In 1850 the society again decided to erect a church, and in the following year bought two lots (Nos. 329 and 330) of Samuel L. Rugg for $35! On one of these the first house of worship was completed in 1854. The first settled pastor of the church was Rev. John H. Nevius, who remained thirteen years. During that period, until the building was completed, services were generally held in the court house. The church was completed early in 1854 and on February 6th of that year all the pews (except one reserved for the pastor) were sold at auction. It is said that the highest price paid for a pew was $26, and the total amount received was $796.25. The sale was not for one year, but for as long as the building should stand. This was not as long as expected; for the meeting house was burned in November, 1862, and in the following year the edifice was completed at Five Points—the intersection of Second, Adams, Mercer and Winchester streets—which, for more than forty years, was noted as the first brick church to be built in Adams County.

Among the earlier pastors of that period may be mentioned

Old Home Gathering at the Presbyterian Church in October, 1912

Revs. Thomas Elcock, Norman Jones, C. A. Kanouse, A. J. Reynolds and I. T. Holt. During Mr. Jones' pastorate, 1872-77, a parsonage was built. In 1905 the Presbyterian meeting house was again partially destroyed by fire; the furniture and the inner walls of the structure were so badly damaged that a new building was erected on the site of the old. It is still occupied. It is said that the preacher in charge at the time of its construction, Rev. E. A. Allen, furnished the one-tenth part of the cost of the building and its equipment and furnishings. During the past ten years the pastors serving the Presbyterian church have been Rev. Alfred Fowler (1906-07); Rev. Richard Spetnagle (1908-10); Rev. William H. Gleiser (1911-15); Rev. J. C. Hanna, since February, 1915. The present membership of the church is 250.

Decatur Baptist Church

The Baptists of Decatur organized many years before the Civil war, but had no house of worship, and during that disturbing period most of the original members scattered and the society virtually was lifeless until its revival in the summer of 1884. At that time an organization was effected by eighteen members and in 1886, while Rev. D. B. Record was pastor, work was commenced on a brick house of worship on the east side of Fourth Street near Adams. It was completed in the following year. The permanent re-establishment of the Baptist society at Decatur is largely due to the labors and influence of Mr. Record which covered many years. Within the past decade the church has been served by Rev. E. E. Bergman, Rev. C. E. Ehle, Rev. T. L. Jones, Rev. R. N. Ball, Rev. F. G. Rogers and Rev. G. Butler. The society has a present membership of about seventy-five.

Zion Reformed Church

The religious body above mentioned was organized in November, 1861, and a house of worship was erected during the same year. The combined church and school occupied near the corner of Jackson and Third streets is a substantial building. The original structure has been improved to meet present-day requirements. The membership of the church has reached more than two hundred, and in the nearly sixty years which have passed since the society was formed the following have served as its pastors: Revs. Carl Jaekel, William Spies, G. Beisser, H. W. Vitz, E. W. Kruse, George Grether, L. C. Hessert and L. W. Stolte.

First Evangelical Church

The Evangelical Association was one of the first religious organizations to conduct services in Adams County. Ministers of that denomination commenced to preach at various points outside of Decatur, in the late '40s, and organized societies among the Germans of Preble, Union and St. Mary's townships. When Rev. S. S. Condo commenced to preach to members of the faith in the old court house, in 1871, four or five churches had already been formed in those sections of Northwestern and Northeastern Adams County.

The First Evangelical church of Decatur was organized by Rev. George Frehafer in 1872 and in the following year a frame meeting house was erected on the east side of Winchester Street. In 1887 the church building was remodeled and greatly improved both in appearance and comfort, and in March, 1916, a massive and tasteful edifice was completed to meet the growing demands of later years. It cost $17,000, and has a seating capacity for 500 people.

Among the early pastors of the First Evangelical, following Rev. George Frehafer, were Rev. John Baughman, Rev. James Wales, Rev. Joseph Fisher, Rev. I. B. Fisher, Rev. J. M. Dustman, Rev. A. R. Shafer and Rev. J. E. Stoops. The first parsonage, just south of the church, was built in 1883. The Decatur charge became a mission about 1890. During the past twenty years the following have served the First Evangelical church as pastors: Rev. W. H. Mygrant, 1898-1900; Rev. D. Martz, 1900-01; Rev. S. I. Zechiel, 1901-04; Rev. E. B. Haist, 1904-08; Rev. D. O. Wise, 1908-12; Rev. J. H. Rilling, 1912-17; Rev. W. S. Mills, present pastor. The society now numbers over 200 members.

Other Religious Bodies

The Christian Church of Decatur was organized in March, 1881, and Rev. Myron Gleason was its first pastor. The house of worship was purchased of the Methodists on Front Street and its site is now occupied by the Opera House. The new church at the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets was built about thirty years ago. Among other early ministers may be mentioned Revs. Grant Lewis, Harry Sutton, J. H. O. Smith and Charles Scoville. Rev. W. Paul Marsh is the present pastor.

The United Brethren Church of Decatur was organized in 1885 and two years later a house of worship was completed on the corner of Ninth and Madison streets. It has a present membership of over

300 and the following have served as pastors: Reverends Wilgus, 1885-86; T. Coats, 1886-88; Jacob Miller, 1888-90; D. A. Boyd, 1890-92; Shepherd, 1892-97; Kline, 1897-1901; Pontius, 1901-04; Luke, 1904-06; Stangle, 1906-07; Kessinger, 1907-08; Imler, 1908-12; Love, 1912-14; Harmon, 1914-17; C. J. Miner, 1917-18.

The Church of Christ, while under the pastorage of Rev. Monroe E. Hinz, erected a brick house of worship in 1902, corner of Eleventh and Monroe streets. The society is now in charge of Rev. J. Elmer Cook.

Secret and Benevolent Societies

The Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Columbus, Elks and Moose, with their respective auxiliaries, have strong organizations at Decatur, the I. O. O. F. taking precedence, chronologically, of all the secret and benevolent orders locally represented.

The Odd Fellows

St. Mary's Lodge No. 167, I. O. O. F., was organized on September 1, 1859, by six charter members—W. G. Spencer, David Studabaker, Thomas J. Pierce, Daniel Miller, Timothy J. Matheny and John McConnehey. First officers: Mr. Pierce, N. G.; Mr. Miller, V. G.; Mr. Spencer, secretary; Mr. McConnehey, treasurer. During the earlier years, the lodge met in the upper rooms of the Houston building on Second Street, but in 1875 occupied its new hall at the corner of Monroe and that street. The Odd Fellows' building was then the most expensive structure in the business district. The present membership of the lodge is 132, with the following officers: District Deputy Grand Master, Homer H. Knodle; Noble Grand, William McCague; Vice Grand, Reuben Lord; Recording Secretary, Edwin Macy; Financial Secretary, John Logan; Treasurer, John McCrory.

Olive Lodge of the Rebekah degree dates from 1872. Its first members were Mrs. Mary E. Spencer, Mrs. Mary Simcoke, Mrs. Harriet Studabaker, Mrs. Catherine Gillette, Mrs. Sophie Reider, Mrs. Victoria Hill, W. G. Spencer, Dan Miller, F. J. Gillig, David Studabaker and G. Reider.

Decatur also has an encampment of Odd Fellows which was organized under dispensation in October, 1875, with the following members: William G. Spencer, W. P. Moon, A. J. Hill, B. H. Dent, Henry Winnes, Dietrich Reider, Jeremiah Archbold, Jesse Butler, D. O. Jackson, D. J. Spencer and F. J. Gillig. That organization was known

as Decatur Encampment No. 136. It was reorganized October 17, 1893, as the Reiter Encampment No. 214, I. O. O. F., with the following officers: W. G. Spencer, C. P.; B. H. Dent, J. W.; J. P. Moon, S. W.; J. Archbold, H. P.; Henry Winnes, treasurer; and A. J. Hill, scribe.

The Masons

Masonry had its rise at Decatur in the chartering of Lodge No. 252, A. F. & A. M., about 1860. Its original members were Samuel Mickle, Augustus Gregory, George H. Martz, Washington Steele, Thomas T. Dorwin, J. E. Teele and Washington Kern. The lodge first met in a hall on the east side of Second Street, which was afterward occupied by the Good Templars and the Knights of Pythias. In 1870 the Masons commenced to meet in the hall over Dorwin's Drug Store, and the lodge now in the work, which was organized in 1884, still meets in Dorwin's block.

Decatur Lodge No. 571, F. & A. M., was chartered May 27, 1884, with Jonas Coverdale as W. M.; John D. Hale, S. W.; and Benjamin W. Sholty, J. W. It was organized under dispensation June 9, 1883, with the same officers as under the charter, except that Robert S. Peterson was senior warden instead of Mr. Hale. Old Decatur Lodge No. 254 surrendered its charter in May, 1882.

The past masters of Decatur Lodge No. 571 have been as follows: Jonas Coverdale, 1883-88; John D. Hale, 1889; James T. Merryman, 1890; Lewis C. Miller, 1891-97; John W. Tyndall, 1893-4; Willard B. Suttles, 1898; David E. Smith, 1899-1901; John H. Lenhart, 1900; Lewis C. Helm, 1902; George Kinzle, 1903; Phillip L. Andrews, 1904; Henry B. Heller, 1905; N. G. Lenhart, 1906; D. E. Smith, 1907-12; Charles Dunn, 1913; D. E. Smith, 1914-17; George Kinzle, 1918.

The lodge has a present membership of 180, with the following elective officers: David E. Smith, W. M.; Levi L. Baumgartner, S. W.; Richard D. Myers, J. W.; Calvin E. Peterson, S. D.; Harry Fritzinger, J. D.; E. B. Adams, secretary; George T. Burke, treasurer; Barney Kalver, tyler.

Decatur Chapter No. 112, R. A. M., was organized under dispensation granted November 20, 1895. It was chartered October 22, 1896. First officers of the chapter: Lewis C. Miller, H. P.; John W. Tyndall, K.; John D. Hale, S.; David E. Smith, C. H.; Jonas S. Coverdale, P. S.; Charles A. Dugan, R. A. C.; Dan Sprang, G. M. 3rd V.; Benj. W. Sholty, G. M. 2nd V.; John W. Vail, G. M. 1st V.; D. French Quinn, treasurer; Godfrey Christen, secretary.

Past High Priests: Lewis C. Miller, 1896-1904; Philip L. Andrews, 1904-05; Lewis C. Miller, 1907-08; P. L. Andrews, 1908-10; Lewis C. Helm, 1910-12; David E. Smith, 1913-18.

Present Officers: David E. Smith, H. P.; Lewis C. Helm, K.; Jonas S. Coverdale, S.; Levi L. Baumgartner, treasurer; Roy Archbold, secretary; Henry B. Heller, C. H.; Phil L. Andrews, P. S.; William P. Schrock, R. A. C.; Arthur Suttles, G. M. 3rd V.; Arthur Ford, G. M. 2nd V.; Earl Adams, G. M. 1st V.; Barney Kalver, guard.

The chapter has now about ninety members.

The first chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star at Decatur was known as "The Family of Constellation," and was organized in 1869. It was dissolved a number of years before the one now active was chartered. Mrs. Sarah Blackburn, the oldest living member of Decatur Chapter No. 127, O. E. S., was identified with the original organization.

The present chapter (No. 127) effected a preliminary organization on July 18, 1892, when Special Deputy Todd, of Bluffton, assisted by the officers of Crescent Chapter No. 48, of that city, installed the following: Mrs. R. S. Peterson, W. M.; D. E. Smith, W. P.; Mrs. Hannah Moore, A. M.; Mrs. Barbara Winnes, treasurer; Miss Rose Christen, secretary; Mrs. J. D. Hale, cond.; Mrs. J. B. Ford, assistant cond.; Miss Dora Peterson, Warder; Barney Kalver, sentinel; Ethel Hale, Adah; Mrs. Emanuel Brown, Ruth; Anna Winnes, Esther; Alice Peterson, Martha; Mrs. John Peterson, Electa.

The charter of the chapter was granted April 26, 1893, and the following have been its past worthy matrons: Fannie Peterson, 1893-4; Nellie Ford, 1895-6; Monta Hensley, 1897-8; Mary Tyndall, 1899; Nora Parrish, 1900; Olive Peterson, 1901; Angeline Archbold, 1902; Minnie Reid, 1903-4; Mary Stoneburner, 1905; Nellie Blackburn, 1906; Lettie Ernst, 1907; Mrs. George Kinzle, 1908-9; Mrs. Olive Peterson, 1910.

The worthy patrons of the chapter have been D. E. Smith, L. C. Miller, Dr. J. S. Coverdale, J. D. Hale and G. T. Burk. Mr. Miller was serving his thirteenth year in that office when he died in 1907.

The principal elective officers now serving (December, 1917): Mrs. Olive H. Peterson, W. M.; G. T. Burk, W. P.; Mrs. Ethel Smith, Asso. M.; Mrs. Flora Kinzel, treasurer; Miss Anna Winnes, secretary; Miss Nellie Blackburn, conductress; Mrs. Mamie Myers, asso. conductress; Mrs. Martha Burk, warder; Mrs. Laura Crill, sentinel; Mrs. Nellie Sholty, chaplain. The chapter has a membership of about 130.

Knights of Pythias

Kekionga Lodge No. 65, Knights of Pythias, was instituted in the Good Templars' Hall on Second Street opposite the court house, on August 20, 1875, with these charter members: C. T. Dorwin, Godfrey Christen, W. S. Congleton, N. Blackburn, A. R. Bell, M. Burns, J. P. Quinn, Fred Shaffer, W. W. Van Ness, Frank Railing and D. L. Phelps. For years the lodge met in the Derks Building next to the Odd Fellows block, but for some time has occupied its fine club house and home near the corner of Second and Monroe streets, completed January 20, 1910, at a cost of over $12,000. It is a beautiful two-story brick building, with tile roof. The lodge has a membership of over 200.

The Elks Club

The Elks Club No. 993, of Decatur, was organized in September, 1905, with fifty-eight charter members. Its successive heads have been H. L. Couter, D. E. Smith, A. P. Beatty, W. A. Lower, David Studabaker, H. J. Yager, J. J. Helm, Charles N. Christen, Albert L. Colchin, W. R. Dorwin and Clem Vogelwede. The club, as constituted in December, 1917, had about 140 members, and was officered as follows: R. C. Parrish, E. L. K.; Wiley Austin, E. L. K.; Albert L. Colchin, secretary; C. S. Niblick, treasurer; W. R. Dorwin, esquire; P. L. Macklin, tiler; Shaffer Peterson, chaplain; J. B. Meibers, I. G.; W. R. Dorwin, E. F. Gass and D. M. Hensley, trustees.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus, No. 864, organized in February, 1905, and have since increased their membership in Decatur to over 270. The first grand knight of the local organization was E. X. Ehinger, who served two years; C. N. Christen, one year; H. J. Yager, one; Dynos Schmidt, one; Martin J. Mylott, two; Joseph Lose, present grand knight, two years. The other elective officers in service are: Martin Smith, D. G. K.; D. M. Niblick, F. S.; H. M. Gillig, R. S.; Julius Heideman, chancellor; Peter Miller, warden; C. S. Niblick, treasurer.

The Moose Lodge

Adams Lodge No. 1311, Loyal Order of Moose, although young, is strong, having a membership of more than 250. It was organized in

W. J. Bryan Speaking During Old Home Week

May, 1914. Its first officers were H. S. Lachot, M. E. Hower, S. E. Brown, S. E. Whitman, and G. H. McNamara. E. H. Faust, A. C. Foos, A. W. Tanvas, Leo Bogner, William G. Kist, R. V. Miller, Richard Roop, Clyde Berry, G. E. Kinzle, Lawrence Green, Irwin Elzey and H. M. Gillig are now in office.

Old Home Week

Among the events most talked about in Adams County because of its wonderful and complete success is the Old Home Week held October 14-19, 1912. From every state in the union came the sons and daughters of the old county, including many who had won fame and fortune, for a week of reunion and a visit with the old friends. The program included a street fair, with parades, display of live stock, numerous attractions, features of various kind, including balloon races, speeches by famous men, a visit to the city by Governor Marshall and his staff and a general good time. The City of Decatur where the event was held was packed every day, the largest crowd on Friday being estimated at 25,000. The week closed Saturday night at midnight with hundreds marching the street singing, "There's No Place Like Home." The event was given by a committee of citizens including F. M. Schirmeyer, chairman, and E. X. Ehinger, C. A. Dugan, J. H. Heller, H. R. Moltz, H. J. Yager, French Quinn, C. N. Christen, C. C. Schafer, Will P. Schrock, secretary, Morton Stults, and C. S. Niblick. The most important feature of the week was the formal opening on Wednesday of the first sugar factory in the state, participated in by city, county and state officials and representatives of the Holland-St. Louis Company.

CHAPTER XII

TOWN OF BERNE

LEADING MENNONITE CENTER IN AMERICA—ORIGINAL SWISS-GERMAN COLONY—BERNE FOUNDED—DESCENDANTS OF ORIGINAL FAMILIES—THE FIRST STORE—EXTENSION OF TOWN AREA—BERNE OF TODAY—THE PIONEER SCHOOLS—THE BERNE POSTOFFICE—HOTELS—THE MILLS—THE DOCTORS AND LAWYERS—BERNE CORPORATION—STATUS OF LOCAL MATTERS IN 1887—A GERMAN PROHIBITION TOWN—MUNICIPAL ROSTER—THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM—FIRES AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT—MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT—AS A SHIPPING CENTER—BUILDING MATERIALS—BANKS OF BERNE—MENNONITE BOOK CONCERN—THE BERNE WITNESS—RELIGIOUS BODIES—THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH—FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH—THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH—THE MISSIONARY CHURCH—JOHN A. SPRUNGER AND HIS ORPHANAGE—THE LOCAL LODGES.

The town of Berne, in the southern part of the county, represents one of the most moral and thrifty communities in the state. The basis of its substantial life as an American village was laid more than half a century ago, when a colony of about seventy Swiss Mennonites from the region of the Jura Alps arrived in the vicinity of Berne and took up cheap lands in a tract of lowlands and white oak woods. That was in the spring of 1852. To the average American farmer the outlook would not have seemed bright, but to these hardy immigrants accustomed to the barren mountain slopes, the tough clay soil of their newly acquired lands which lay level before them teemed with possibilities. They were not only trained to meet exposures, hardships and unremitting toil, but were sustained in their labors by the religious faith that they were working for God as well as themselves. Strengthened by such racial stalwartness and deep faith they, and their descendants after them, could not conceive of failure; and the result has been, as is widely known, a noteworthy center of material prosperity and strict religious inspiration.

Leading Mennonite Center in America

Specifically, Berne is the leading center of Mennonite propaganda in the United States and in the world. It has acquired that position largely through the activities of the Book Concern, the official publishing house of the church, and the Berne Witness, with printing and publishing facilities of an extensive and high order.

Original Swiss-German Colony

The original colony of Swiss immigrants, who formed a slowly increasing community near the present site of Berne, were from the Commune of Moutier, Switzerland, where they had been renters of small mountain farms. Within the succeeding twenty years, in spite of many seasons of fever and ague and malarial diseases, their faithful and hard labor had resulted in transforming an unattractive and unproductive countryside into an area of neat and richly-yielding farms and gardens, dotted with clean and comfortable houses and out-buildings. Most of the original company were members of the Sprunger family and its relatives by marriage; nearly all brothers, sisters and cousins, and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. As the years passed, other relatives from the Jura region of Switzerland also joined the Adams County colony, which therefore retained its distinct stamp of unfailing thrift and an unflinching stand on matters of religious observance and discipline.

Berne Founded

In the early part of 1871, when it became certain that the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad would build through the county from north to south, coming up from the south by way of Geneva and striking Decatur to the north, the members of the Swiss colony had visions of a thrifty new town to be centered in a plat adjacent to the railroad station. The Crawford brothers, Josiah and John, had been residents of the county since 1839, and were among the first to bring live stock to this section from Darke County and the older settled districts of Ohio. Josiah, especially, took much interest in the projected town, and when it was certain that it would be platted suggested that it be called Crawford, Crawfordsville and a variety of other names which should perpetuate his family. He had held the office of county commissioner since 1856, was very popular and of sufficient general prominence to give force to his suggestion, but it happened that the State

of Indiana was overburdened with the names of villages and post-offices which commenced with "Crawford," and as a repetition was against the law he was completely blocked in his attempt to thus honor the family name. But as the great preponderance of the local settlers were Swiss, Mr. Crawford gracefully receded from his forlorn hope, and became an earnest champion of the name which the railroad town finally adopted. Thus Berne it became, in honor of the capital of the beloved little republic; and there has been no appeal from that decision. That name was first inscribed on the original town plat of August 15, 1871, but was not recorded until April 5, 1872. Mr. Crawford died in the early '90s.

Descendants of Original Families

The proprietors of the original site of Berne were Abraham Lehman and John Hilty, and the first settlers upon it were Mr. Lehman, who located in the southwestern section, Peter Sprunger in the northwestern, Christian Schneck in the northeastern and Christian Liechty, in the southeastern. Not a few of the pioneer Swiss families are still represented in Berne by numerous descendants. There are nearly sixty Sprungers, including E. H. Sprunger, editor of the Berne Witness; thirty-four Lehmans, including J. F. Lehman, president of the Mennonite Book Concern; sixteen Reussers, and three Hiltys.

The First Store

The first building erected on the village site was a frame storehouse built by Thomas Harris in August, 1871. Mr. Harris kept a general stock of merchandise for a year or so, and then sold to J. J. Hirschy & Company. The original lot was bought of Abraham Lehman and, within a period of a dozen or fifteen years, was occupied by the Ellenberger Meat Market, the old store building then being used as a shed in the rear of the brick structure. The Harris store preceded the platting of the town by several weeks, the original site of which extended from the railroad west to the present Bank of Berne.

Extension of Town Area

As stated by the Berne Witness: "This plat was rapidly occupied by enterprising business men and additional plats were made in rapid succession by Messrs. Lehman, Liechty and Hilty and built up rapidly. In ten years the town had grown westward to the People's

State Bank, eastward to John Martz's residence, northward to Water Street and southward to the Stock Yards, with a population of about two hundred. The next ten years the town stretched out its wings northward to the present northern limits one-half mile from Main Street, and westward along Main Street to the Mennonite Church, and the population trebled. The former farms of Peter Sprunger and Abraham Lehman (now owned by Isaac Lehman) were rapidly covered with town residences to the present limits." It is said that Berne has had more additions—sixty, or over—than all the other towns of the county together. Its site now covers about a square mile, nearly all the south half of section 33, and portions of the north half of sections 4 and 5, in Monroe and Wabash townships.

Berne of Today

Berne is located almost on the ridge of the watershed of the Saint Lawrence Valley and the Gulf of Mexico, seven and a half miles from the eastern boundary of Indiana. Its natural surroundings are poor, but its thrifty citizens have counteracted all disadvantages by their industry and energy and the neat, well-paved streets, and handsome brick buildings; its well-financed banks, fully-stocked stores and substantial churches and public structures, are but striking reflections of its people. There are few other communities of its size which can claim a mile of good brick pavement and a mile and a half of macadam. The shipments of grain, hay and livestock from Berne are large. It has several lumber yards, plants for the manufacture of brick and artificial stone, overall and shirt factories, a milk condensing plant, a mill, and, in the line of business, about twenty general, drygoods, hardware, grocery and other stores.

The Pioneer Schools

The log schoolhouse, built by "Grandpa" John Sprunger during 1856 in the northwestern part of town, is typical of Berne; has been stamped by many of its old-time residents as "where Berne got its start." It was the first district school in the neighborhood and not a few founders of the town were taught their A, B, C's therein by the late Abraham J. Sprunger. In May, 1859, it was the scene of the wedding of Miss Elizabeth Sprunger to Ulrich Amstutz.

This really historic building was razed about fifteen years ago and stood on the farm which, for many years, was the home of Daniel Welty and is now owned by Carl Lehman. It had been used for a

carpenter shop and a variety of other purposes. It was occupied for school purposes only a short time, as District School No. 8 of Monroe Township and No. 2, of Wabash Township, were soon opened and filled with children. In 1879 the first public schoolhouse to accommodate the pupils of the growing town was completed and was afterward remodeled for religious purposes. It came successively under the ownership of the German Reformed and Missionary churches, and is now devoted to the "movies." Robert E. Christen was the first teacher in this pioneer public school, and among others who held forth

THE BERNE PUBLIC SCHOOL

at an early day therein were Joel Welty, H. S. Michaud, Levi L. Baumgartner (now city engineer of Decatur) and John C. Lehman.

THE BERNE POSTOFFICE

Berne did not have a postoffice of its own until after it had become a railroad station on the Grand Rapids & Indiana line. The postoffices in the southern part of the county at the time were the Limberlost, at what is now Geneva, and the Canoper, which was maintained at the homes of various farmers east and northeast of the present town of Berne. Some of the postmasters of the Canoper office were Jacob Ruble, John R. Burdge, Lewis Mattax and A. B. McClurg. When the passenger trains commenced to run on the Grand Rapids & Indiana, the mails were carried by the railroad, Limberlost and Canoper post-

offices were dropped, and Geneva and Berne substituted. Philip Sheets, who was a grain merchant and storekeeper at the latter place, was appointed the first postmaster at Berne, and among his successors have been Andrew Gottschalk, William Sheets, Joel Welty, Harvey Harruff, William Waggoner, H. S. Michaud, J. F. Lehman, John H. Hilty and Earl K. Shally. The bulk of business transacted by the Berne postoffice is noticeably large, chiefly on account of the widespread activities of the Mennonite Book Concern and the Berne Witness.

Berne was made a money-order office July 10, 1883. The first order was issued to Adolph Huffer, the same day, in favor of L. Bremes & Company, Fort Wayne. The first order paid was on August 8, 1883, to James Young, issued from Troy, Ohio.

Hotels

The first hotel in Berne was built by Daniel Luginbill in 1873. About two years afterward Mont Rose erected what was known as the Cottage Hotel. Some years afterward Mr. Rose obtained control of the original inn and re-christened it the Cottage Hotel. It was long quite well known among the hostelries of this section of the state, but has for some time been occupied as a residence. The Alpine Hotel now furnishes the local accommodations in that line.

The Mills

Berne has enjoyed a good flouring mill for nearly forty years. Its first manufactory in this line was erected in 1881 by David S. Sprunger, Daniel Z. Sprunger and A. S. Lehman. Two years afterward it was burned. The fire was supposed to have been of incendiary origin. The first lumber company had been formed in 1880, and two elevators for the storage of grain had been built previous to that year; that is, in 1872 and 1875, respectively. In the summer of 1884 the Hoosier Roller Mills Company was formed by A. A. Sprunger, Jefferson Lehman, Levi Moses, D. C. Neuenschwander, Abraham Sprunger and Samuel Lehman. They built a planing mill, bought one of the grain elevators and the lumber yard, and conducted a large combined business. In September, 1888, the Hoosier flouring mill was burned. Another soon replaced it and that also was destroyed by fire in about a year. The third flour mill was burned in 1894 and in July of the following year the plant was completed on the old site which is now operated by the Berne Milling Company, of which Wesley O. Neuenschwander is the manager.

The Doctors and Lawyers

Of the different members of the professions, it is natural, and it was very necessary, that the doctors should come early and remain at their posts. Fevers and agues seized the people of the Swiss-German colony and the founders of Berne and hold them in their grip for years. Quinine was consumed by the ton, even after Homeopathy had made some progress. For about fifteen years after Berne was laid out, Drs. John and Daniel Neuenschwander and Peter A. Sprunger had the monopoly of the medical field at Berne and in the adjacent country. It seems that John Neuenschwander had served Doctor Stoll, a well-known homeopathic physician of Ohio, as a hostler, and, becoming interested in medical matters, when he joined the Mennonite colony in the late '60s he brought some books on homeopathy to read and study. Both he and his brother, Daniel, continued their studies together and gradually commenced to apply their medical knowledge by practicing among their relatives and neighbors. Their competitor of the regular school was Dr. Cleophas Baumgartner. In June, 1873, Dr. John Neuenschwander moved to Missouri and his brother had the homeopathic field virtually to himself for about ten years. In the meantime Dr. Peter A. Sprunger had been inspired by Dr. Daniel Neuenschwander to study homeopathy, and when the latter moved away Doctor Sprunger was prepared to take up his duties and was busy night and day in a broad region, with Berne as its nucleus. He continued a large practice until his sudden death in 1895. Among other early physicians may be mentioned Dr. Ernest Franz, who pursued his first studies in the office of Dr. Peter A. Sprunger, and Dr. Amos Reusser, whose preceptor, in turn, was Doctor Franz.

One of the first lawyers to open an office at Berne was Frank M. Cottrel, who, after having served as justice of the peace in Jefferson Township and been admitted to the bar, in 1890, located in that place and commenced practice. Patrick Bobo, John C. Moran and Emil Franz have also represented the local bar, both as practicing and prosecuting attorneys. Rudolph Lehman, who located at Berne in 1887, was the first local justice of the peace. Several years afterward he became identified with the Bank of Berne.

Berne Corporation

The year 1887 marked the commencement of an important era in the civic and material affairs of Berne. The village was incorporated as a town on the 30th of March, of that year, with Daniel Welty, J. F.

Lehman and John C. Lehman as its first board of trustees; F. F. Mendenhall, clerk; David Bixler, treasurer, and J. F. Lachot, marshal. On the following 2d of May (1887), the following officers were regularly elected: Trustees—Harvey Harruff, First Ward, who served one year; Samuel Simison, Second Ward, who was its councilman for ten years, and John C. Lehman, Third Ward councilman, 1887-90. During the year the local saloons were taxed and the "calaboose" was built. The fact that the latter is still sufficient to house law-breakers may be accounted for by the fact that Berne has been "dry" since 1904.

Status of Local Matters in 1887

In 1887, when Berne was incorporated as a village, the local business and professional men were as follows, their names being alphabetically arranged: Allison, Morrow & Company, general store; Eugene Aschleman, saloon; Jacob Atz, saddler; Berne Manufacturing Company, saw-mill; David Bixler, jeweler; M. Boller, tinner; Jacob Branneman, saloon; W. Broadwell, physician; Brown & Koenig, blacksmiths; Edward Dro, meat market; Joseph Giauque, grocer; J. P. Habegger & Company, hardware; Harvey Harruff, postmaster; Abram Hocker, blacksmith; Fred Hofer, barber; Hoosier Roller Milling Company, flour mill, elevator and lumber yard; Hoffman & Gottschalk, drugs; Lehman & Muzabaum, meat market; Fred Meister, tinner; Mendenhall, Harruff & Company, drugs; Frank Monosmith, station agent; C. D. Sheets, groceries and drugs; Philip Shug, agricultural implements; Sprunger, Lehman & Company, general store; Philip Sprunger, architect and builder; John Wagner, boots and shoes; Jacob Wegmueller, saloon; Welty & Sprunger, Mennonite Publishing House; Charles Wilson, saloon; Wittever & Yoder, livery and feed stable; D. S. Wittever, Eagle Hotel.

A German Prohibition Town

It will be seen by a casual review of this rather imposing list that Berne already had three saloons; but the movement for a sober, moral town had already commenced, and had borne fruit in the organization of the German Temperance Society. Even before its formation, and when no citizen was severely criticized for patronizing the saloons, there was a considerable element in the community, headed and sustained by such men as Rev. S. F. Sprunger, pastor of the Mennonite Church and J. Christian Rohrer, father of Fred Rohrer, who were

solidifying the sentiment against the innocence of the tippling habit. Strong and persistent co-workers in the field were also J. F. Lehman, Moses Moser (afterward a resident of Detroit), Joel Welty, John A. Sprunger, Levi A. Sprunger, F. G. Eichenberger, C. C. Sprunger and N. G. Fankhauser. These gentlemen, and other good citizens commenced to hold meetings, more or less formal, in the Sprunger-Lehman store, during the winter of 1885-86, and on February 4th of the latter year the matter came to a head in the temporary organization of a temperance society, with Mr. Lehman as chairman. As stated by the Witness in 1906: "The original object of the society was more that of an anti-saloon society than that of strictly temperance, to create a sentiment to compel the saloonkeepers to run their business within the bounds of the law; but as the society took definite shape and grew in membership, which it did very rapidly, the sentiment of strict personal temperance of its members approaching total abstinence, also grew very rapidly, as the only effective means by which to further the temperance cause. In the first year the membership of the society, despite the most violent opposition against the new movement, even among the majority of church members, grew to 79, and since then it has grown steadily until at present 300 names are on its roll. (Membership now considerably over 300.—Editor.)

"But the temperance idea in Berne antedates the organization of the society for years. Despite the popular custom in those days of patronizing the three or four saloons then existing in the little village, when no one looked askance on anybody, not even on church members and ministers of the Gospel, for visiting the public drinking places, there were a number of earnest devoted souls that abhorred the custom and shunned the cup that inebriates, and both privately and openly preached the doctrine of temperance.

"Certainly no person in Berne has done more to create a temperance sentiment and further the temperance cause than Rev. S. F. Sprunger, retired pastor of the Mennonite Church. For years before the founding of the society he preached temperance openly from the pulpit and condemned the patronizing of saloons, and since the organization of the society he has been its very soul and impetus. Next to him J. Christian Rohrer, father of Fred Rohrer, who came to this place a year before the temperance society was organized, was chiefly instrumental in agitating the personal abstinence idea, which he brought with him from Berne, Switzerland, where he was a charter member of the Blue Cross Total Abstinence Society now numbering tens of thousands in membership. Father Rohrer was the first person to sign a total abstinence pledge in Switzerland.

"The society quietly worked as a leaven in the community and gradually changed the public sentiment in favor of temperance and against saloons. Whereas twenty years ago about everybody patronized saloons, it is now actually but little short of a disgrace to visit a saloon.

"The first aggressive move against the saloons in Berne was made in October, 1902, when the Ministerial Association of Berne, relying on the strength of public sentiment created by the temperance society, and the temperance sentiment prevailing in many churches and over the township generally, instituted a remonstrance campaign, resulting in an overwhelming majority for the remonstrators. This remonstrance was filed by E. M. Ray on November 27th of the same year, and the result was that two of the old time saloons were closed on Tuesday, December 2, 1902." After a series of exciting contests both in courts and without, the saloons were permanently closed in March, 1904.

Municipal Roster

Since the incorporation of the Town of Berne the following have served as the presidents of its council and as town clerks: Presidents—Jeff Lehman, 1887; Samuel Simison, 1887-1897; Christ Stengle, 1897-1898; A. J. Hawk, 1898-1901; J. H. Sullivan, 1901-1902; Abe Baegly, 1902-1904; Sam Schindler, 1904-1905; Philip Schug, 1905-1906; W. H. Parr, 1906-1910; Philip Schug, 1910-1916; C. D. Balsiger, 1916-1918;; and Anthony Michaud, 1918.

Town Clerks—F. F. Mendenhall, 1887-1889; J. F. Lachot, 1889-1894; Amos Hirschy, 1894-1901; Christ Stengle, 1901-1907; Emil Franz, 1907-1910; Lawrence Yager, 1910-1912; Chauncy Lautzenhauser, 1912; F. C. Foreman, 1912-1914; N. G. Fankhauser, 1914-1915; A. P. Sprunger, 1915-1917, and Elmer W. Baumgartner, 1917.

The Public School System

Of the public departments which collectively constitute the Town of Berne the common school system is the oldest and, if anything, the most earnestly supported. In 1888, the year after the town incorporation, the first public schoolhouse was constructed, a two-room brick structure now composing the northwest quarter of the present school building. Franklin G. Haeker was the first principal in that building and Miss Lila C. Schrock, who afterward moved to Decatur, the first primary teacher. Mr. Haecker continued for three school years and Miss Schrock for four. In the summer of 1892 the school building

was enlarged to its present size, eight rooms. The handsome building, as it now stands, is valued at about $25,000.

Since Mr. Haecker's superintendency, the heads of the local system of education have been N. C. Hirschy, John A. Anderson, John Bryan, F. G. Haecker (second term), Benjamin A. Winans, F. D. Huff and C. E. Beck. It was Mr. Winans who introduced a high school course of two years, which has since been extended to three. Mr. Huff served some eight years as superintendent and made a fine record.

Fires and the Fire Department

A number of rather costly fires swept through different portions of Berne before its citizens, as a whole, decided that a fire department was a public necessity. In the spring of 1883 Sprunger Brothers' mill on the north side of Main Street burned; on September 12, 1888, the flames made a meal of the Hoosier Roller Mills, the sawmill, the harrow factory and other structures; Daniel Z. Sprunger's shop followed in the spring of 1892; the last part of 1894 saw a fire of some proportions on Water Street, and in the fall of 1895, before the recently purchased apparatus had arrived, the stave factory south of the stockyards was so completely consumed that it was never rebuilt.

In the summer of 1895 the town hall and engine house, under one roof, was erected, and an engine and other apparatus purchased. The engine arrived on September 23d, about a week after the stave factory fire, and was found, after a trial, to be in prime condition. On the 30th of October the first fire company was organized with twenty-five members—J. F. Lehman, president; F. G. Eichenberger, secretary; Louis Gehrig, chief.

Municipal Electric Light Plant

The plant which furnishes the people of Berne with electric light and power is municipal property, and its citizens take a just pride in its service. In the early '90s natural gas was introduced as a means of both heating and lighting, but the supply gave out and for several years Berne labored under not a few inconveniences thereby. But in 1904 Henry Stuckey obtained a franchise from the town for establishing and operating an electric light plant. A stock company was then formed with a capital of $18,500 and the present plant was constructed just north of the grist mill. William Baumgartner is general manager of the plant.

As a Shipping Center

Berne was known as a livestock center even before the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad provided it with facilities to meet any considerable expansion of its trade in that line. Among the leading pioneer shippers of the locality were Lemuel Headington, Harry Evans and Abe Sprunger. With the coming of the railroad he commenced to ship from Berne over the Grand Rapids & Indiana line, was soon joined by Abraham A. Sprunger, Robert Schwartz, Edward Luginbill, Fred Meshberger, Levi Atz, Eli Riesen, William Farlow and others, while Daniel Sprunger and David Bixler established scales for the weighing of the stock at the yards. The stock yards were fully established near the depot by the late '80s.

Building Materials

Berne also became known as a shipping point because of the lumber trade which centered there at an early period. The town was in the center of a natural hardwood district, and sawmills were established in the early '80s by such men as Laban Boegly and John A. Sprunger, D. C. Neuenschwander, D. Z. Sprunger and others. Hickory and ash were especially sawed into timber for both home and foreign use. The Berne Lumber Company was formed in the fall of 1883, which established and operated also a planing mill, a flouring mill and a harrow factory. In 1888 its property in the north part of town was nearly all burned. The Berne Grain & Hay Company also built a large elevator and under the original proprietorship of John J. Hirschy, conducted a large business. It afterward was merged into the Berne Lumber Company. One of the pioneer lumber firms of the place was P. W. Smith & Company, which placed a large sawmill in operation in 1890. It was located east of the railroad tracks in the north part of town. While the hardwood for its raw supplies could be cut in the vicinity of Berne the enterprise flourished, but with the stripping of the home timber its business gradually declined.

The manufacture of bricks and cement blocks has meant considerable to the industrial progress of the place. In 1882 the first brick yard was opened by Samuel Simison, Laban Boegly and Harvey Harruff along the west side of the railroad south of town. During the early part of 1903 the Artificial Stone Company was organized, Abe Boegly having introduced the manufacture of cement blocks or artificial stone during the previous year. The overall industry had its

origin in the little factory established in 1898 by Peter Longaker just north of the sawmill of the Berne Lumber Company.

Banks of Berne

Berne's business houses and industries are backed by two substantial banks, the oldest of which is more than a quarter of a century old. On October 18, 1891, the people of the place declared their financial independence of Decatur by rallying to the support of the Bank of Berne, organized that day by A. A. Sprunger, president; Joe Rich, vice president; R. K. Allison, cashier, and C. A. Neuenschwander, Peter Soldner, David Studabaker and William Niblick. Rudolph Lehman, assistant cashier, was elected cashier of the bank in July, 1894, and held the office for twelve years, or until the fall of 1903. Mr. Sprunger continued as president until his death in 1906, when he was succeeded by C. A. Neuenschwander, still in office. Mr. Neuenschwander followed Mr. Rich as vice president in the fall of 1892 and thus served until he became head of the bank, as stated. Mr. Neuenschwander had frequently assisted in the bank as cashier, especially in the interim between the resignation of Rudolph Lehman in the fall of 1903 and the coming of Jesse Rupp in April, 1905. Mr. Rupp served as cashier until June, 1913, when the duties of the position were assumed by the present incumbent, J. D. Winteregg. The surplus and undivided profits of the bank amount to more than $19,000; average deposits, about $360,000; capital stock paid in, $50,000.

In February, 1903, the People's State Bank was organized at Berne with a capital of $40,000, and the following as its directors: Joseph Rich, president; Rudolph Schug, cashier; Julius C. Schug, Nelson K. Kerr, Samuel Egly and Charles E. Dugan (Decatur). The bank was opened for business April 2, 1903. Its capital stock was increased to $50,000 in 1906. Since the organization of the People's State Bank there has been no change in the management with the exception of the presidency, Julius C. Schug succeeding Mr. Rich in 1914.

The Mennonite Book Concern

The history of the Mennonite Book Concern at Berne covers a large part of the town record and stands for the typical religious life of the home community. The Berne Witness, in its tenth anniversary souvenir edition, has the following concise account of the rise and development of the Book Concern from a private enterprise to the representative publishing house of the Mennonite Church in America:

"It was on May 9, 1882, that Joel Welty, deceased, opened the first book store in town in an old one-story frame shack which stood on the present site of the Bank of Berne and was bought of Jacob Braun, who had used it as a dwelling. In 1883 Mr. Welty and his brother Daniel built a new two-story frame structure which stood on the site of Riesen's barber shop and was torn down when the new bank block was erected. In connection with the book store, Welty Brothers also did a furniture business for a number of years. Rev. S. F. Sprunger assisted them especially in the selection of books, which were always of wholesome, instructive or religious character, and his name was therefore also incorporated in the firm name, Welty & Sprunger, in 1884.

"In the fall of 1884 the Mennonites of America held a general conference here (that is, those that belonged to this organization), and upon the offer of a three years' loan of $1,000 capital to the conference on the part of Welty & Sprunger, the conference took up the offer and the book store, heretofore a private concern, became a church institution—the publishing house and book store of the General Conference of Mennonites—the largest Mennonite concern of the kind in the world, under the name Christian Central Publishing House, Welty & Sprunger publishing agents, and Joel Welty, manager; who remained as such until the fall of 1896. The local firm name of Welty & Sprunger continued meanwhile until the fall of 1893.

"In the fall of 1888, after the great mill and factory fire on North Jefferson Street, in which he had been a heavy loser, J. F. Lehman went into the employ of the publishing concern, and has remained in it ever since, now almost eighteen years. Until 1896 he was Mr. Welty's assistant in the management, and since then its full-fledged manager.

"The present name of the firm, 'Mennonite Book Concern,' dates from 1893 when the General Conference was in session at Bluffton, Ohio. Early in the '90s the furniture business was disposed of and a bindery was established instead, superintended by Peter Boegly, now at Fort Wayne. About New Year, 1895, this bindery was moved to Fort Wayne by Mr. Welty where it continued under his management as a branch of the Mennonite Book Concern until the fall of 1896, when it was sold to Mr. Welty and others as a private undertaking. In the fall of 1904, the book store was moved to its present comfortable quarters."

The Mennonite Book Concern publishes a German weekly paper called "Christlicher Bundes-Bote," established in 1882, and the Mennonite. founded in 1884. Rev. C. Van der Smissen has been general editor of the publishing house as well as special editor of the

Bundes-Bote, since January, 1912. The Kinder Bote should also be mentioned, and a German Sunday School quarterly. The Mennonite Book Concern is a publishing and a sales house, but has no printing facilities. For a number of years the printing of its publications was done at St. Louis, Dayton and at Elkhart, but since 1900 the contract for that class of work has been carried out by the Berne Witness Company. The good results have been mutual and have also greatly added to the postoffice business of Berne.

The Berne Witness

The Berne Witness Company, which may be called the official printing house of the Mennonite Church in the United States, has one of the most complete establishments of the kind in Indiana. The Berne Witness, now a tri-weekly, which gave the company its name was founded by Fred Rohrer in 1896, some time after he graduated from the Tri-State Normal College. The history of the paper and the company, from first to last, was prepared for the thirtieth anniversary number of the Berne Witness, from which, with slight changes in text to conform to the historical plan of this work, the following account is taken:

On July 31, 1896, Fred Rohrer returned home from attending Tri-State Normal College, and on August 4th, with the financial aid given by his brother, John, bought the job printing plant of Joel Welty, then leased by J. F. Lehman, and moved it into rooms over the Sprunger, Lehman & Company store. An old Washington hand press was also bought, and this with a few other articles purchased at Decatur, and 100 pounds of body type, composed a plant costing less than $600—the full capitalization of the first newspaper in Berne.

At 4 p. m., on Thursday, September 3, 1896, in the presence of a large number of bystanders, the first proof of the first newspaper printed in Berne was taken off the press. For the first year the paper appeared in the form of a seven-column folio. The next year it was enlarged to a five-column quarto, and the force of two increased to three. In April, 1899, it was again enlarged, to a six-column quarto, and the force increased to four, and soon to five persons. March 1, 1900, a German edition was also added and continued until November 1, 1901, when the two were merged and issued semi-weekly.

In 1900 a deal was made with the Mennonite Book Concern for the printing of its publications, a weekly, a semi-monthly and a quarterly, which were then being printed at Elkhart. To cope with the great increase of printing matter, the force was increased from five to

eleven and some of the old machinery gave place to more modern and efficient equipment. About $3,000 worth of machinery and material were added to the already fair equipment, and the plant was moved into the entire west third of Champion Block.

In November, 1900, Mr. Rohrer, who heretofore had owned the plant alone, formed a partnership with Henry M. Reusser, William Narr and David C. Welty. The business grew steadily from year to year, more machinery and hands being added until a force of eighteen were kept busy almost constantly.

Early in 1906 two more partners were taken into the firm, and it was thought best to incorporate, which was done in May of that year. The capital stock was made $12,000, and the business was managed by three directors. A book bindery had also been added to the equipment. At the end of the first decade the gross earnings had grown from $1,200 the first year to about $12,000 the tenth year. With the record of the first decade as an incentive, it was up to the management to continue progressively. The business kept growing from year to year, more machinery and hands being added annually until the year 1909, when some of the lady typos were displaced by a new model 5 linotype.

In 1911 the Berne Witness Corporation outgrew its quarters in the Champion block and the old business property of Sam Kuntz and the lots on both sides of it were bought. The old fire-trap frame buildings were removed and a fire-proof structure was erected. The first floor is devoted to the office and the press room, as well as a stock room. On the second floor are the composing room and the bindery department. After moving into the new quarters, a new model 8 linotype was added to the model 5, as well as other composing room equipment.

In September, 1911, the capital stock of the company was again increased to $30,000, and there it has remained to the present. In the same month the Witness made its appearance in a different form, as a tri-weekly, and has since continued to appear thus. With the ample quarters afforded by the new building, more business was solicited, and as a result the company is now printing thirteen different publications from various states. Besides, the job department has been improved to a higher efficiency so that a great deal of catalog and bulletin work is being turned out by this department for various institutions and societies in this and other states.

On March 1, 1915, in order that he might devote himself exclusively to the business end of the plant, Fred Rohrer, the founder and editor up to this time, resigned from the editorship, and C. T. Habegger, a graduate of Oberlin College, was elected to fill the vacancy until June,

1916, when E. H. Sprunger was elected to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Habegger's election as business manager.

Religious Bodies

There are four organizations at Berne actively engaged in religious work, and they are mentioned in the order of their accepted seniority —the Evangelical, the Mennonite, the German Reformed and the Missionary churches.

The Evangelical Church

As stated, the Evangelical Association organized the first congregation, or society, within the limits of the village. In the fall of 1882 fifteen members of that faith met at the schoolhouse (now the Missionary Church Building) and, under the lead of Rev. George Roederer, organized a society. Andrew Gottschalk was elected class leader and Sunday school superintendent. Meetings continued to be held in the schoolhouse until 1887, when Abe Hocker built his brick blacksmith shop, with a hall on the second floor which he furnished free to the Evangelical Church. In 1900, when the $6,000 church was built which is now occupied by the society, the membership had reached nearly 100; now (December, 1917) it is 250. The following pastors have served the church since its inception: Revs. George Roederer, J. M. Dustman, A. K. Schaefer, J. E. Stoops, H. E. Overmeyer, Timothy Carrol, J. H. Evans, H. Steininger, J. W. Metzner, C. M. Pierce, D. E. Zechiel, D. B. Koenig, Frank Hartman, C. P. Maas, D. Alfred Kaley, J. O. Mosier and D. O. Wise.

First Mennonite Church

The handsome and massive house of worship at Berne which is the home of its First Mennonite Church is in keeping with its strength and leadership as a religious body. It is the headquarters building of the national organization of the United States and, in age, is now in its sixth year. At the time of its dedication April 7, 1912, the "Mennonite" published the following history of the local organization, which, it is needless to say, is authoritative:

"The Mennonite Church of Berne had its origin in the union of two independent congregations which existed in the wilderness of this community from the year 1838 the one, and 1852 the other until 1879, or strictly speaking until 1886, for it was not until then that the two

congregations, though having used the same church building alternately for many years, fully united as one congregation. There are nearly a score of people in the church still living who remember the building of the first church in 1856. Up to that year the meetings were held in the log cabins of the various members. The first church stood in the old little grave yard that is now being abandoned, and was facing the east. It was torn down in the year 1880 and bought by David Sprunger for $25.00. With the lumber he built a number of horse sheds at the new church, which stood for 30 years.

"The oldest of the two original congregations were organized in 1838 by David Baumgartner. He was followed in the ministry by

THE MENNONITE CHURCH AT BERNE

Christian Baumgartner, Ulrich Kipfer, Matthias Strahm, and Christian Augsburger. About the year 1857 or 1858 there was a three-cornered split in this church which caused some members to leave and join the Evangelical Association at New Ville, while Rev. Strahm and a few members went to the New Mennonites, then called 'froelichanern,' and the balance held together with Christian Baumgartner and Ulrich Kipfer as pastors until Kipfer's death in 1866.

"In the year before, 1865, one Christian Augsburger, father of Aaron C. Augsburger in Berne, was also chosen minister, but in 1869 he associated himself with the Old Mennonites. Thus Rev. C. Baumgartner was the only pastor of this church until 1871. The congregation then had a church building in French Township. The other

branch, organized in 1852, had Peter S. Lehman, father of J. F. Lehman, present Sunday school superintendent, as its first pastor, and then Christian Sprunger, 1856, Peter Habegger, 1865, and Peter Neuenschwander, 1876.

"Of all the preachers named thus far only the last one is still living. He seceded from the organization in 1879 or 1880 when the second church was built, because it was too stylish for him. He still has a congregation of his own, mostly his own household and relatives numbering in all between 25 and 30 members, who hold meetings in a small building on the Schweizer Schwander farm one-half mile west of Berne.

"All these ministers who served these early congregations were chosen to their important calling by lot, and this is the way it was usually done, after a certain Sunday had been designated as the day on which a new preacher was to be chosen.

"Any member of the congregation had the privilege of nominating any one as candidate for the lot, and nominations were continued until closed by a motion to that effect. Then they took a number of books, sometimes equal to the number of candidates nominated and sometimes one more, and in one of these books they placed a slip of paper, and set them in a row on a table or on the pulpit and made all candidates march by and take one of the books, and the one who happened to get the book with the slip of paper in it, was regarded as the one whom God had chosen to be the shepherd of His sheep.

"The last time a lot was cast in this way by the congregation here was in 1868 when it fell on S. F. Sprunger, then a young man with a vivacious disposition. Rev. Christian Baumgartner, pastor of the other congregation in French Township, came and ordained him, but before young Mr. Sprunger took up the preaching of the Word he went to Wadsworth, Ohio, and attended a Mennonite School for two years and a half to prepare himself for his life work. In doing this, however, he sinned in the eyes of the senior pastor, Rev. Christian Sprunger, and many members of the congregation, which had called him to the ministry; and consequently, when he returned from Wadsworth, in 1871, they refused to let him preach, because they did not believe in an educated ministry. On the other hand, Rev. C. Baumgartner, of the French Township society, was glad to open the doors of his church for him and listen to him. Also a certain per cent of C. Sprunger's congregation who went to French Township to hear S. F. Sprunger when he preached there, finally demanded that he be given the use of the church here on such Sundays when Christian Sprunger did not preach himself. Nearly all churches in those days

held meetings only every other Sunday. Thus Rev. S. F. Sprunger preached here and in French Township alternately for about ten years. Rev. Christian Baumgartner died in 1878 and a few years after that the French Township church was abandoned and the building sold.

"In 1879 a new church was built here and used alternately by Revs. Christian and S. F. Sprunger and their respective followers until 1886 when the two congregations fully united as one body. In the same year a large addition was built to the church, and two more in 1899, so that it easily seats 1200, and many times on special occasions sheltered from 1,500 to 1,600 people.

"On June 11, 1903, after having preached to the same people nearly every Sunday for thirty-three years, Rev. S. F. Sprunger resigned on account of failing health, and on October 18th of the same year Rev. Christian Sprunger died. He had been unable to preach for many years prior to his death, and had lost all his faculties. In the meantime the congregation had secured Rev. J. W. Kliewer, a young Russian Mennonite and graduate of the Theological Seminary at Evanston, Illinois, as its pastor and he proved a worthy successor of Rev. S. F. Sprunger whose place was hard to fill. It was he who urged the building of the new church as much as anybody else and laid the corner-stone on July 10, 1910, but was called away from this field before the church was completed, to accept the presidency of Bethel College, a Mennonite institution at Newton, Kansas."

A number of important and interesting facts must be added to complete the history of the First Mennonite Church of Berne. On Sunday, March 31, 1912, the last Sunday school was held in the old church, about 1,000 members and teachers being in attendance. Good Friday following marked the last gathering of the church society in the old home, and the new church was dedicated on Sunday, April 7th. The evolutions from the old to the new included the following steps: Building of the first church in 1856; erection of the second, 1879; second old church enlarged in 1886 and 1899; corner-stone of the new church laid July 10, 1910, and dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 7, 1912. The total cost of the church property was more than $56,000, and of the building alone $52,000. The style of the edifice is modernized Renaissance. It is built mainly of brick and its ground dimensions are 158 by 85 feet. For the accommodation of members who attend from a distance and must ride to the services a huge barn was constructed on the grounds 132 by 180 feet, inclosed under one roof.

The present pastor of the church is Rev. P. R. Schroeder, who succeeded Rev. S. F. Sprunger in June, 1912. Mr. Sprunger is pastor

emeritus, but has retired from active work in favor of the younger man. The membership of the church is now 920. Among the various activities inaugurated by the congregation under Mr. Schroeder's ministry may be noted the organization of an Intermediate Christian Endeavor Society and a nursery for the care of children under four years, open for the Sunday morning services, both founded in 1913; and the commencement of English evening services in the spring of 1917.

The German Reformed Church

The Reformed Cross congregation of the German Reformed Church at Berne is about thirty years old, although the denomination had been represented in the country a few miles from the present site of the city since 1869. In December of that year Rev. F. Huellhorst, pastor of the Reformed Church at Vera Cruz, Indiana, organized a congregation by that name and in the following year the members built a house of worship three miles southwest of Berne. It was served as a part of the Vera Cruz charge for almost thirty years, Revs. F. Huellhorst, A. Bollinger, Peter Vitz, J. Otto Vitz and Herman Heusser being its ministers. In 1888, during the pastorate of the last named, the old school building was bought for a house of worship to accommodate those who resided in the village. In the following year the two congregations felt themselves strong enough to call a resident pastor, and Rev. A. Baeder located at Berne in that capacity. Since his time, the Reformed Cross congregation has been served by Revs. B. Ruf, E. H. Vornholt, H. H. Kattmann and F. W. Hoernemann. The large brick church now occupied was completed in 1896, and is the home of 365 communicants.

The Missionary Church

The Missionary Church at Berne, under the pastorate of Rev. S. J. Grabill, originated in the defection of John A. Sprunger from the Mennonite Church, in 1900, and the organization of the Light and Hope Society under his leadership. The movement was under the general control of the Christian Missionary Alliance and it was then that its members at Berne assumed the name by which the society is still known, the Missionary Church. Services were first held in the old Reformed Church. In the year named (1900) new congregations were formed both at Berne and about three and one-half miles west of the city.

John A. Sprunger and His Orphanage

John A. Sprunger was one of the strongest and, in some ways, the most remarkable man who ever lived at Berne. Especially during the decade of 1880-90, his activities and his personality seemed to be everywhere. He was a man of striking energy and enthusiasm, and whatever he undertook completely possessed him. During the earlier period of his residence at Berne he devoted himself, with all his practical powers, to the material upbuilding of the community with which he had cast his lot. A native of Berne, Switzerland, and a son of Abraham B. Sprunger, who was also one of the prominent men of the county and town, he was brought to Ohio by his parents when an infant and soon afterward the family home was fixed on section 32, Monroe Township, just west of the present town plat. There he lived until he had reached his twenty-first year, farming and attending the German schools in the neighborhood. His first decided step toward independence was to "buy his time" of his father by giving his note for $100, and to engage in saw-milling and running a threshing machine. In the meantime the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad had commenced to open up the country and Berne had been platted and made some steps forward as a town; so much so, that in 1875 Mr. Sprunger established himself in the new place as a dealer in hardware and machinery. In 1876 he engaged in general building and erected a grain elevator and several residences at Berne. He commenced to deal in live stock during 1878-79, and in the latter year became a member of the firm of Sprunger, Lehman & Company, of which he was the manager—and surely a very active one. In 1883 he built what was then considered a very fine residence and in the following year erected the flour mills. In 1884-85 he erected twelve dwelling houses, and the Champion Block, then the most substantial business structure in Berne and in which his firm conducted its large business. In 1883 he built the Eagle Hotel, which added to the general standing of the town. In short, as intimated, for many years Mr. Sprunger was the dominating force at Berne in all its business and industrial advancement.

At the height of such activities, the tide was turned into another channel. Mr. Sprunger had always been a leader in the Mennonite Church and its Sunday school, and his wife, nee Katie Sprunger, had also gone hand in hand with him in all religious work. Both their children had died and their strong natural love of home and family turned their minds and hearts toward the care of orphans. Soon Mr. Sprunger's entire time and strength were dedicated to the founding of a local orphanage, and in the fall of 1891 he erected a

large frame building as a home for children thus bereft. Mrs. Sprunger cooperated with him in every possible way to make the enterprise a noble success, and at one period of its Home life more than one hundred orphans found a shelter and parental affection and protection at the Berne Orphanage. The undertaking met with a sad set-back in April, 1895, when three children were burned in the fire which destroyed the building completely. A more substantial brick structure replaced it, but in 1902 the Home was closed and Mr. and Mrs. Sprunger moved to Cleveland, where they again embarked in the same line of philanthropic work. Mr. Sprunger died in 1911, and his remains were brought to Berne for burial. His useful and benevolent works have brought honor and love for his memory. His honored widow still resides at Berne and is continuing the work of his later years by caring at her own home for eight orphans who could not ask for a kinder or more thoughtful mother than she.

The Local Lodges

The churches are so active in Berne that the secret and benevolent lodges are not as strong as in many other communities. The Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows and Masons, however, have had organizations of more or less prosperity, especially the first named. The Berne Lodge No. 398, Knights of Pythias, was instituted December 5, 1893, with twenty-three charter members and three admitted by card. The first officers of the lodge were as follows: Andrew Gottschalk, P. C.; J. W. Stoneburner, C. C.; R. K. Allison, V. C.; J. A. Anderson, prelate; R. Lehman, M. of E.; P. T. Longacher, M. of F.; T. G. Hopkins, K. of R. & S.; F. C. Foreman, M. at A.; J. E. Mahoney, I. G.; D. L. Shalley, O. G. The present membership is about eighty, and the officers in service: P. C., T. A. Gottschalk; C. C., H. A. Whiteman; V. C., C. G. Emick; prelate, Charles Braun; M. of W., T. A. Gottschalk; K. of R. & S., C. H. Schenk; M. of F., F. C. Foreman; M. of E., J. G. Kerr; M. at A., Charles Heare; I. G., Cy. Liechty; O. G., William Thompson.

Berne Lodge No. 838, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted in January, 1906, and the Masons at Berne effected an organization at a still later date.

CHAPTER XIII

GENEVA AND MONROE

THE OLD TOWN OF ALEXANDER—TOWN OF BUFFALO PLATTED—EVOLUTION OF GENEVA—A RAILROAD TOWN—GENEVA, THE INFANT—PEN-PICTURE OF GENE STRATTON-PORTER—EDUCATION, EARLY AND LATE — AS A CENTER OF METHODISM — UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH — GENEVA INCORPORATED — EARLY IN THE NEWSPAPER FIELD — THE BANKS OF GENEVA — PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS — SECRET AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES — OLD TOWN OF MONROE — THE RAILROAD REVIVAL—THE BANK AND TELEPHONE SYSTEM—FINE HIGH SCHOOL — BUSINESS HOUSES AND NEWSPAPER — THE CHURCHES—DECATUR AND MONROE M. E. CIRCUITS—NOT A STRONG LODGE TOWN.

The Town of Geneva, in the southern part of Adams County seventeen miles south of Decatur, is a neat and growing place on the Grand Rapids & Indiana line and the center of the Limberlost region, made memorable by several of Gene Stratton-Porter's best stories and, since its swampy lands were drained and cultivated, brought to a high standard of agricultural efficiency and prosperity. The town, which has been known under several "aliases," is now the shipping and the banking point for a large district permanently productive of live stock, grain, sugar beets, and other riches of the soil. It numbers among its industries and business establishments a mill, an elevator, two banks, and a score of stores, general and special. The town has a good school, two churches, and, to round out its life, a newspaper which has been established for more than thirty years.

THE OLD TOWN OF ALEXANDER

The original town from which Geneva was evolved was called Alexander, and was located near where the old Godfrey trace crossed the Fort Recovery, or Huntington Road in section 32, Wabash Township. There stood the log cabin of one Alexander Hill, a pioneer of hospitality and prominence, and when Charles Lindley laid out a

town at the cross-roads on August 4, 1838, he gave it the imposing name which Mr. Hill bore. Alexander, as then laid out, comprised twenty-eight lots, and was divided north and south by Main, Jackson and Van Buren streets, and east and west by North and South streets. On the east side of Main, on the banks of the Limberlost Creek, Mr. Hill erected the first tavern and some of the first settlers went so far as to say that it even preceded the town itself. The building is said to have been a two-story hewn-log structure, with a front of rough boards. Jacob Conkle was also an early resident of enterprise, burned the first brick kiln in Wabash Township, built the first sawmill operated by steam at Alexander in the early '50s, and was the first postmaster after the office of Limberlost was established.

Town of Buffalo Platted

But Judge David Studabaker is generally accorded the honor of being the father of Geneva; for on the 28th of July, 1853, he platted the Town of Buffalo directly to the north in section 29, Wabash Township. The postoffice of Limberlost accommodated both settlements, Jacob Conkle being first placed in charge of it. During the period of their partial development and until about five years before Geneva (half a mile north of Buffalo) became a railroad station on the newly-completed Grand Rapids & Indiana line, the steam sawmill at Alexander conducted a brisk business. In 1866 it was almost wrecked by an explosion.

Evolution of Geneva

The original Town of Buffalo, platted by Judge Studabaker in 1853, contained thirty lots, the streets named being Van Buren and Ringgold streets running north and south, which were crossed by Kossuth Street. In August of that year C. A. Wilkinson laid out an addition of twenty-nine lots, which extended the town to the then proposed Cincinnati, Union City & Fort Wayne Railroad, the right-of-way of which had recently been located. Judge Studabaker then extended his addition still further to the north by purchase; the Butcher heirs also platted an addition, and then in 1871 came the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, and in the northern border of what had become a continuous settlement fixed a station called Geneva. That name was the rallying point for a consolidated town.

A Railroad Town

The first regular passenger trains on the railroad commenced to run on Christmas day of 1871. The surveyors located the station at the crossing of the railroad by what is now Line Street, and the company arranged with J. D. Hale to erect a building which should serve as a depot and a grain house, and over which he was to preside as station agent. Mr. Hale let the contract to a carpenter, who built such a structure for $100, 14 by 28 feet in dimensions. This building, which was completed very early in 1872, was the first structure of any kind erected on the railroad plat, and served even as a grain house until the Hale warehouse and elevator were finished in 1877. The depot part of the building was used for a ticket, express and telegraph office, with Mr. Hale and his brother, S. W. Hale, as agents and operators.

Geneva, the Infant

In regard to the early matters connected with the original Geneva, Snow's History of Adams County states: "As soon as convenient office room could be secured at Geneva the postoffice was moved to the new part of the town. Charles D. Porter and Emerson Kern built store houses south on Main Street in Buffalo, but as the station was located further north and buildings began going up, they abandoned their first store-rooms and built on Line Street. Mr. Porter established the first drugstore in Geneva, but if he had not married Geneva Stratton, a country girl who was the daughter of Mark and Mary Stratton, of Wabash, it is probable that the historian would have cut this matter short. But the fact that the pioneer druggist of the place became the husband of the naturalist-authoress brings his own life into reflected prominence.

Charles D. Porter was born in Decatur, April 3, 1850, the eldest son of Dr. John P. Porter, and soon after leaving school engaged in the drug trade at Fort Wayne. He moved to his native place not long after and located at Geneva in 1872. His father, a brave surgeon connected with the Eighty-ninth Infantry, was killed by guerrillas during the Civil war and the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic honored his name by assuming it officially. The son, Charles D., married Miss Stratton April 21, 1886, so that his claims to distinction appear to be mainly by blood inheritance and by marriage. Some years after that event, which occurred twenty-three years after the birth of the bride on a farm near North Manchester, Mr. Porter also engaged in the banking business.

Pen-Picture of Gene Stratton-Porter

Several of the present-day residents of Geneva were acquainted with young Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter before she had made a literary name. One of them, Silas W. Hale, an advisory editor, writes: "She was a very domestic woman and devoted herself to her household duties, and to the study of botany and birds. She was so engrossed in her studies that she had no time for society, and seldom appeared at any of its functions. But she delighted in hitching up her horse to a small buggy, or wagon—loading in her gum boots, ladders, spade

Gene Stratton-Porter's Limberlost Cabin

and mattock—and going to the woods and swamps in quest of bird specimens. She was quite an artist, and would spend days in digging out, and trying to get the photo of a king fisher on her nest. The water and mud were never too deep, nor the brush too thick, nor the trees too tall for her, if she thought there was a specimen anywhere in the neighborhood that she wanted. She was determined on a literary career—an ambition in which her husband did not at first share—but she had the faith and the nerve which it takes to succeed in any line of work. Her first book, 'The Song of the Cardinal,' was published in 1903, and had a very good sale. 'What I Have Done with Birds' and 'The Birds of the Bible,' were excellent works, but the books that brought her fortune and made her known over the entire country were 'Freckles' and the 'Girl of the Limberlost.' As stated,

and illustrated in this history by extracts especially from 'Freckles,' the foundation for these works was laid in a large extent of country, very dense, wet and boggy, that was almost inaccessible except in certain seasons of the year. It was known as the Limberlost or Lob country. The author built what is known as the Limberlost cabin, in which all of her literary work has been done. She still owns it, but having built a home similar to the Limberlost cabin on the banks of a lake at Rome City, Indiana, with a farm in connection with it, she spends practically all her time there." In Mr. Hale's pen-picture of Gene Stratton-Porter one clearly recognizes the Bird Woman of "Freckles" and "The Girl of the Limberlost."

Mr. Kern, the merchant, was the first postmaster at Geneva. The next buildings erected there after those of Messrs. Porter and Kern were some small plank business rooms on the south side of Line Street west of the railroad. Another that was among the first was George Iholt's store room that occupied the ground where the I. O. O. F. building is located. In 1876 Jerry L. Cartwright built a two-story store room to the east of this, and furnished the amusement-loving public its first opportunity to see shows by theater troupes in Geneva. At this time there were a great many strangers in and about the timber towns, and the dances and masquerades were well attended. Perhaps the third building in the Town of Geneva was the Heaston Hotel. It was located just east of the railroad on Line Street. This was built about the latter part of 1872 and had a good patronage. The Watson House was the next in the line of taverns or boarding houses. About this time the Shackley Wheel Company started a spoke and heading factory in Geneva. Several sawmills were put in operation and employment was given to a large number of men in the timber industries.

Education, Early and Late

Continuing, as regards early and late efforts to educate the juveniles of Geneva, Mr. Snow writes in 1906: "Before their incorporation as a town with Geneva, the residents of Alexander and Buffalo sent their children to the district school. The schoolhouse was located at the present corner of Railroad and Bradford streets in North Geneva, on the corner now occupied by the residence of Dr. L. L. Mattax. This schoolhouse was a small frame building with five little windows, two in each side and one at the end opposite the door. The inside walls were ceiled with rough oak and ash boards when the lumber was unseasoned, and the openings between the boards furnished plenty

of ventilation in winter and a fine escape for wasps and lizards in the spring and summer time.

"In 1873 the township trustee built a frame schoolhouse on West Shackley Street near Main. In 1877 the attendance could not be accommodated in a single-room house and the school was divided, a part attending school in the old log church building. The first brick schoolhouse was built in 1878. This was also the first brick schoolhouse with more than one room in the county. The first brick schoolhouse in Root Township was a district school building of one room built in 1873. The Geneva graded school building was a large two-story, four-room building with seating capacity for about two hundred pupils. This building was destroyed by fire in 1904 and has been recently (1906) replaced by a commodious structure not exceeded in appearance or convenience by any in the county. The cost of the building is not far from $20,000. It is located on the north side of Line Street in West Geneva." Within the past decade Geneva has maintained a high grade public school. The building was erected in 1902 at a cost of $20,000. It is now (January, 1918) under the superintendency of A. E. Harbin and has an enrollment of 202 pupils, of whom 86 are in the high school.

As a Center of Methodism

What is now Geneva has long been a strong center of Methodism, and has been to the southern part of the county what Decatur has been to the northern. That field of the work has been described by that pioneer, Rev. W. J. Myers, of Decatur, as follows: "Geneva is the second largest and strongest society in the county. In 1856 the New Corydon circuit was organized, and Rev. E. E. Pearman was the first pastor. There had been Methodist preaching and prayer, and class meetings held in schoolhouses and private houses for a number of years. Nuclei of Methodist societies sprang up at Hartford, Ceylon, Union Chapel, Buffalo, Oakland and New Corydon, all of which were brought together by Presiding Elder D. F. Strite, organized into the New Corydon circuit and a preacher sent to them the following year. The population of this part of Adams County increased rapidly during the following years. Methodism did not suffer so much in the southern part of the county, as the northern, during the Civil war. The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad was completed in 1871, and the town of Buffalo was rechristened Geneva. Owing to mail and railroad facilities, the pastor of New Corydon circuit found it convenient to live at Geneva, and, in a few years, the society there

outgrew the others. In 1876 the work was called the Geneva circuit and the first pastor was Rev. R. H. Smith. Geneva was made a station in 1896, and the other appointments were called Ceylon circuit. Rev. J. B. Cook was sent in 1898 to Geneva. After twenty years and more the old frame church building became too small and was not in keeping with the demands of the people. During the three years of his pastorate, Brother Cook, with his usual energy, raised the money and built the present commodious and tasteful brick building. When Geneva became a station, the membership was less than 100; now (1915) it is nearly 300." It may be added that the present society is in charge of Rev. J. F. Lutey.

United Brethren Church

The United Brethren Church of Geneva was organized in 1875, with about a dozen active members, among whom were Daniel McCollum, George W. Pyle, Adam Cully and their families. Rev. E. B. Cunningham is in charge of the present society.

Geneva Incorporated

Geneva was incorporated by act of the Legislature and the charter election held January 27, 1874, when the following officials were chosen: Trustees—R. Todd (president), John D. Hale and N. P. Heaton; clerk, John Q. Anderson; treasurer, Charles D. Porter. As stated, the postoffice was originally named Limberlost, from the stream thus known and continued so until 1871 when it was given the name of the railroad station. The first recorded addition to Geneva was Pyle's, filed on the 29th of March, 1877. Additions filed previously are shown as parts of the Town of Buffalo.

Early in Newspaper Field

Geneva was early in the newspaper field and entered it with an enterprising spirit. In April, 1876, largely through the initiative of William Fought and Jerry Cartwright, C. K. Thompson brought a printing outfit and a press from Fountain City, Indiana, and set up his plant on High Street, Geneva; his was the first steam power press in Adams County. It was established as a weekly, and its publication was continued for more than four years. It was suspended in June, 1881, and was published during the last six months of its existence as the second daily newspaper in the county. The Triumph was then moved to Shane's Crossing, Ohio.

The Geneva News issued its first number September 20, 1881, soon after the suspension of the Triumph. In May, 1883, after several changes in proprietorship, it was sold to H. S. Thomas, a Willshire editor and publisher, who moved his own plant from that point to Geneva, discontinued the News and started the Independent. In the fall of 1885 he sold his establishment to E. B. Detter, who had issued the first number of the Herald November 8, 1883. The combined establishment took the name of the Geneva Herald, which it has retained to this day. Among its proprietors, besides Mr. Detter,

Geneva's Business Street

have been Lew G. Ellingham, W. Fred Pyle, O. G. Rayn, Shephard & Mattax and Mattax (Harold) & Conner (Earl).

The Banks of Geneva

Although the Bank of Geneva, under its present state organization, was not established until 1895, its real history antedates that year by a decade. In 1885 Charles D. Porter opened a sort of a bank in the rear of his drug store, and four years afterward came out in the open as a full-fledged banker. In 1892 he started the Geneva Bank, with himself as president and cashier and M. E. Beall as assistant cashier. When it was organized as a state bank in 1895, with a capital of $45,000, the following were elected its officers: A. G. Briggs, president; C. D. Porter, cashier; W. B. Hale, assistant cashier; J. W.

Watson, vice president. The present officers are: C. D. Porter, president; A. G. Briggs, vice president; J. A. Miller, cashier. The capital of the Bank of Geneva is $50,000; surplus and undivided profits, $9,500; average deposits, $300,000; total resources, $375,000.

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Geneva was incorporated in June, 1910, and opened for business in October of that year, with a capital of $25,000. Its first offcers were as follows: Martin Laughlin, president; J. W. McCray, vice president; other members of the Board of Directors—Isaac Teeple, Samuel H. Teeple, George Ineichen, George Shoemaker, G. W. Schaefer, Thomas Drew and A. G. Kraner. The bank was organized largely through the efforts of S. H. Teeple and E. C. Arnold, the latter being elected cashier. There have been a few changes in the management, Mr. McCray being now president and Isaac Teeple, vice president. Mr. Arnold is still cashier. The capital of the bank is $35,000; surplus and undivided profits, $5,000; average deposits, $270,000.

Patriotic Organizations

Its favored position in the southern part of the county made Geneva a natural center of many activities identified with trade and banking, Civil war work, religious influence and the secret and benevolent propaganda of the standard lodges. The soldiers of the Civil war had been organized at Geneva long before any other bodies were in the field. The John P. Porter Post, as has been stated in the War chapter, was mustered in July, 1882, with John M. Holloway as commander, and the Relief Corps was established in January, 1898. The Sons of Veterans had followed their fathers as an organization in May, 1884, and all of these patriotic societies, based on the memories of the Civil war, after having remained in the field with noticeable activity to the limit of their membership strength, have, in the natural order of events, been largely displayed by patriotic organizations founded by younger men and women on the great patriotic issues of today.

As matters of interesting local history, however, sketches of the John P. Porter Post and the McPherson Camp, Sons of Veterans, both organized over thirty years ago and for many years very active in the community, should here be given before they are further, and perhaps permanently obscured by the vital issues of the present. Unfortunately, the books of the Post were burned in 1895, but through the courtesy of William H. Fought, a Civil war veteran of Geneva,

and J. R. Fesler, assistant adjutant general of Indiana, the facts sought in the destroyed records were supplied.

John P. Porter Post No. 83, G. A. R., was mustered July 24, 1882, by Col. R. S. Robertson, with the following charter members: J. M. Holloway, commander; William H. Fought, senior vice commander; Lafayette Rape, junior vice commander; John C. Hale, adjutant; S. G. Ralston, surgeon; W. R. Meeks, chaplain; G. W. H. Riley, officer of the day; William Drew, officer of the guard; A. J. Judy, quartermaster; J. P. Scheer, quartermaster sergeant; John D. Hale, sergeant-major. Since the mustering of the Post the following have served as its commanders: John M. Holloway, 1883; William H. Fought, 1884; John M. Holloway, 1885; Michael O'Harra, 1886; J. P. Scheer, 1887; S. W. Hale, 1888; John J. Watson, 1889; J. A. Hendricks, 1890-91; Lafayette Rape, 1892-93; J. P. Scheer, 1894; J. A. Hendricks, 1895; John M. Holloway, 1896-98; A. Burris, 1899; John M. Holloway, 1900; J. L. Juday, 1901-02; I. N. Veley, 1903-04; John J. Juday, 1905; Socrates Cook, 1906-07; J. G. Breuner, 1908; J. L. Juday, 1909-10; William Drew, 1911; S. Cook, 1912-13; J. L. Juday, 1914-18. Five years after the organization of the Post, it had a membership of 124—90 in good standing; a decade afterward, it numbered 165; but at present there are only thirty-five, with a prospect that it will before long be disbanded.

McPherson Camp No. 11, Sons of Veterans, was organized May 6, 1884, with the following sixteen members: Charles Rhone (captain), Joseph Wagner, Gus. Wagner, Joe W. Hendricks, C. E. Lyons, Allen Sholtz, W. E. Buckingham, Dan P. Bolds, I. N. Havelin, Thomas Drew, William Harris, W. A. Lyon, J. A. Lyon, A. L. Coolman, John Iliff and Atris Buckingham. Succeeding Mr. Rhone as captain were Charles D. Porter, 1885; J. A. Hendricks, 1886-88; A. L. Coolman, 1889; E. E. Fredline, 1890; F. H. Hale, 1891; D. F. Connor, 1892-93; H. V. Juday, 1894; R. R. Bradford, 1895; Thomas Drew, 1896; Lon. Burdg, 1897; D. F. Connor, 1898; W. C. Glendening, 1899; W. C. Campbell, 1900; C. W. Muth, 1901; L. E. Rape, 1902; W. C. Glendening, 1903; I. M. Dickerson, 1904; R. L. Towns, 1905; M. Kelley, 1906; John Leichty, 1907; D. F. Connor, 1908; W. M. Potter, 1909; C. D. Porter, 1910; J. A. Coolman, 1911-13; Henry Muth, 1914; W. C. Glendening, 1915; Alfred Burk, 1916; Henry Muth, 1917. The Sons of Veterans and the Woman's Relief Corps, as well as the Post, have decreased steadily in membership, and the active patriotic organizations are now connected with the Red Cross, the war work of the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A., and the activities centering in government conservation of food and fuel.

Secret and Benevolent Societies

After the Post and the Sons of Veterans, the Odd Fellows were the first to organize at Geneva, forming Lodge No. 634, April 7, 1887. The first officers were: C. H. Bell, N. G.; W. H. H. Briggs, V. G.; Frank H. Hale, secretary; A. G. Briggs, Per. Sec.; F. M. Rynearson, treasurer; H. M. Aspy, warden; Samuel Biteman, Cond.; Ervin Thompson, I. G.; W. H. H. Briggs, host; M. Gottschalk, R. S. N. G.; W. S. Sutton, L. S. N. G.; M. O'Harra, R. S. V. G.; Martin Herr, R. S. S.; Hiram Kraner, L. S. S.; B. F. Aspy, chaplain. The successive noble grands have been C. H. Bell, W. H. H. Briggs, Frank H. Hale, Hiram Kraner, S. F. Biteman, E. Barnes, M. J. O'Harra, L. G. Ellingham, W. F. Pyle, I. N. Veley, E. P. Menefee, A. J. Byrd, N. Shepherd, Jacob Butcher, A. T. Lyon, L. D. Mason, M. Schindler, F. F. Gregg, B. R. Waite, T. K. Williams, E. S. Callihan, F. M. Rynearson, Alonzo Burdge, Henry Stahl, M. Rynearson, D. C. Baker, F. N. Hale, E. M. Atkinson, D. B. Linton, Emmett Le Favour, J. M. Pease, Jacob Stahl, M. T. Atwood, F. M. Connor, I. N. Ford, Jesse Thorp, John Kraner, John W. Burris, C. O. Rayn, F. K. Haughton, A. J. Sanders, John Dilts, Harry Moore, A. Harlow, W. J. Nelson, F. S. Armentrout, S. W. Hale, Jesse Mann, J. A. Coolman, D. F. Odle, Roscoe Glendening, I. C. Lybarger, George O. Staley, W. W. Le Favour, A. Haughton, W. H. Bradford and E. H. Shepherd. Besides Mr. Shepherd, the following are now serving the lodge: C. Lybarger, V. G.; W. B. Hardison, secretary; J. L. Love, P. Secy.; George O. Staley, treasurer and warden; F. F. Gregg, Cond.; W. H. Bradford, I. G.; P. E. Glendening, O. S.; A. Haughton, R. S. N. G.; Fred Burris, L. S. N. G.; Henry Stahl, L. S. V. G.; John Miller, R. S. S.; Ira Lybarger, L. S. S.; D. F. Odle, chaplain. The present membership is nearly 130.

After the Odd Fellows, the next order to institute a lodge at Geneva were the Knights of the Maccabees of the World, who, in April, 1895, formed Geneva Tent, No. 106.

Geneva Lodge No. 621, A. F. & A. M., was organized July 29, 1898 (A. L. 5898), with the following charter members: Silas W. Hale, Frederick McWhinney, James B. Brown, Charles Reicheldaffer, Charles D. Porter, John E. Lung, J. H. Hardison, W. B. Hale, W. C. Campbell, Adolph Liebert, John P. Scheer and Rinaldo Sumption. The worthy masters of the lodge have been: William B. Hale, William C. Campbell, James B. Broas, William C. Campbell, Frederick J. McWhinney, William B. Hale, John A. Anderson, William C. Campbell, Jesse Throp, Frederick J. McWhinney, Orous E. Johnson, Ezra

E. Rupel, Wallace B. Hardison, Alva Rupel, Everett C. Arnold and John A. Miller. The first officers of the lodge; William B. Hale, W. M.; William C. Campbell, S. W.; Frank L. Rinehart, J. W.; Silas W. Hale, Treas.; John E. Lung, Secy.; James B. Broas, S. D.; Fred E. Lindsey, J. D.; Rinaldo Sumption, S. S.; James H. Hardison, J. S.; Adolph Liebert, Tyler. Present officers: John A. Miller, W. M.; Josephus Martin, S. W.; Earl H. Shepherd, J. W.; Gottlieb W. Schaefer, Secy.; Wallace B. Hardison, S. D.; Frank J. Ineichen, J. D.; Alva Rupel, S. S.; William E. Shepherd, J. S.; Albert Pontius, Tyler. The lodge has a membership of about 115.

There is also a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star (No. 263), which was organized in 1900 and chartered in April of the following year.

The Geneva Lodge No. 514, Knights of Pythias, was instituted in April, 1904, with forty-eight members. It has a present membeship of 120, Frank Ineichen being chancellor commander.

Old Town of Monroe

Fleeting glimpses have been obtained of the settlement and Town of Monroe, located in the township by that name in the geographical center of Adams County, and, therefore, long ambitious to become its seat of justice and the gathering place of its lawyers, judges and politicians. With this special idea in view, on the 11th of December, 1847, John Everhart recorded it as a plat embracing eighty lots in the extreme northeast corner of section 4, Monroe Township. Its four original streets were Washington, Jackson, Van Buren and Polk. In the contest for the county seat, which was a feature of the general election of 1850—at least, for Adams County—Monroe was considered the leader of the southern voters, but, although the candidates for county offices who hailed from that section were elected, it is believed that the strong influence of the "solid" merchants of Decatur decided the issue. That was Monroe's most valiant attempt to secure the prize, and it was the last serious effort to wrest it from Decatur. Soon afterward a part of the recorded plat was vacated by order of the County Board, and for twenty years Monroe barely existed.

The Railway Revival

When the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad was completed to the site of Monroe, in 1871, less than half a dozen buildings appeared there. It was in that year that the first frame house was built in

the village by Dr. Charles F. Rainier, who afterward practiced in Monroe and vicinity for more than twenty years. For many years before the railroad revived the settlement, the leading citizen of Monroe was William Stockham. He was also reputed to have been its first permanent resident. About 1853 he built a two-room log hut on the south side of Jackson Street near the location of what was afterwards Hocker's drugstore. Mr. Stockham was an ex-soldier of the War of 1812, was also an associate judge, and opened a store in his log house at Monroe, at which he sold everything from whiskey and tobacco to ax handles and ox yokes, and received in exchange

TWELVE-CORNERED CHURCH SOUTH OF MONROE

articles ranging from coon skins to maple sugar. He was really "considerable of a man."

For several years after the coming of the railroad, Monroe promised to be quite a shipping point for timber, lumber and wooden manufactures. In fact, much was shipped for nearly ten years, including railroad ties, heading and staves. In 1873 Gillig & Hower completed the first sawmill at Monroe, and still later C. W. Hocker established a hoop factory and a burr for chopping grain. Gradually, the surrounding county developed and Monroe drew such strength to itself that an elevator was built to handle the large quantities of grain which were brought to that point for shipment. The farmers also commenced to raise and deal extensively in live stock, especially hogs, cattle and calves, and to facilitate the handling of that trade,

the citizens of Monroe built convenient Stock Yards. The town also became the center of a productive sugar-beet district, most of the growers sending their crops to the great Holland-St. Louis factory at Decatur. While awaiting shipment, the beets had to be provided with storage room and means of handling, and a modern Dump was therefore constructed for the purpose. At the present time, Monroe has two large grain elevators; a sale yard for fuel and building materials; the facilities mentioned, as well as others, to meet the demands upon it as the center of a country rich in natural products; a tile factory, patronized by neighborhood farmers, who see that their lands are thoroughly drained and scientifically improved and a well-organized bank, which is ten years of age.

The Bank and Telephone System

The Monroe State Bank was organized in March, 1907, chartered in the following April, and opened to the public in September of that year. Its first officers were as follows: President, W. S. Smith; vice president, J. F. Hocker; cashier, M. S. Liechtey. In 1908 Mr. Hocker became president and M. F. Parrish vice president, serving thus until 1911. Dr. Parrish was chosen president in the latter year and W. L. Keller, vice president, and continued in these offices until 1915, when E. W. Busche, the present incumbent, was elected head of the bank. In 1916 Mr. Liechtey, who had been cashier of the institution since its organization, resigned that position and was elected to the vice presidency, which he still holds. W. S. Smith then became cashier. The capital of the Monroe State Bank is $25,000; surplus and undivided profits, $2,500; average deposits, $100,000; resources, $132,000.

Another institution should be mentioned which tends to give Monroe standing as a rural center of growing importance, as well as present strength. It has a good telephone system, established recently by Dr. M. F. Parrish, and which already embraces an area of some thirty square miles and includes nearly 400 machines.

Fine High School

As an incorporated town, Monroe is well into its thirteenth year. In that connection, its birthday dates from April 17, 1905. For thirty years its citizens have supported and encouraged a good school, which has finally developed into something like a modern rural high school. The first school building erected in the village was completed in

1887, and it was the second brick schoolhouse in the township. It was remodeled and increased in size during 1902. It was located on Section Line Street in the eastern part of town and afterward became a graded school building. The handsome two-story and basement building, with imposing tower, known as the Rural High School, was erected in 1911, at a cost of $22,000. The number of

Rural High School

pupils enrolled is now (December, 1917) 145. W. H. Oliver is the principal of the Monroe High School.

Business Houses and Newspaper

Monroe has quite a number of substantial business houses, including two general, hardware and drug stores. What is known as the Home Store is capitalized at $25,000.

Monroe has also a newspaper, the Reporter. It was established by I. H. Drollinger in May, 1912, and in the following August was purchased by John L. Mayer, its present editor and proprietor.

The Churches

The local churches include societies organized by the Methodists and Friends. During the few years previous to 1871, while Monroe as a village was very dormant, most of the church-going people in the neighborhood attended the Twelve-Cornered meeting house of

the United Brethren, a mile and a half south of the settlement. The Methodists and the United Brethren had erected it jointly, in 1866, and it stood on the farm of Robert E. Smith, in section 9, Monroe Township. This quaint old house of worship is still standing and, although it may not be as picturesque as Hawthorne's "House of Seven Gables," it is far more interesting to the average man and woman of Adams County.

The first building to be erected within the Village of Monroe, dedicated to religious service, was the Methodist Church, which was completed in 1877. Some of the most active members in securing its construction were Bazil Hendricks, William and Phillip Hendricks, David Reefy and James Davey. They were also assisted by contributions of labor, lumber and cash from business men of the town and neighborhood. In 1904 the church was remodeled and greatly improved. The Monroe society is now in charge of Rev. John Phillips.

Decatur and Monroe M. E. Circuits

Various points in Northern and Central Adams County have given the name to the Methodist Circuits at different periods, as thus described by Rev. W. J. Myers, county historian for the North Indiana Conference History: "When Decatur was made a station in 1860 under Rev. Thomas Comstock, the other Methodist societies around Decatur were called Decatur Circuit. Rev. H. Woolport, in 1861, was the first regular pastor. In 1864 the name was changed to Monmouth Circuit, Rev. I. P. Nash, pastor. In 1867 the name was changed to Pleasant Mills Circuit, N. T. Peddycord, pastor. The next change was in 1875, and was called Monroe Circuit, Rev. I. M. Wolverton, pastor. The work contained Washington, Monroe, Salem, Pleasant Mills, and Mount Tabor (now Bobo). Monroe, being located on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, and more central than some of the others, was a rival with Bobo for the parsonage. Bobo won the day. Then an old building they had at Monroe was sold and the money used to build a parsonage at Bobo. In 1907 Monroe asked to be set off with Salem in a work of two appointments. Then Bobo Circuit had Pleasant Mills, Bobo, Clark's Chapel and Alpha. Monroe was made a station in 1909 and Salem was added to Bobo Circuit. Monroe has easily maintained itself a station since that year. While Rev. J. A. Sprague was its pastor, its church building was enlarged and remodeled, and in 1914, under Rev. John Phillips, the present pastor, a parsonage was built."

Not a Strong Lodge Town

Monroe is not strongly inclined to lodge life; in fact, its support in that regard may be said to consist of the identification of a limited number of its people with the Modern Woodmen and auxiliary, the Royal Neighbors. The parent body was organized in 1904, and has a present membership of about thirty.

CHAPTER XIV

OTHER ADAMS COUNTY TOWNS

Township of Churches and Schools—Magley—Town of Preble Platted—Standard Oil Company's Station—Other Preble Institutions—Pleasant Mills—Linn Grove (Buena Vista)——Coryville—Peterson—Monmouth and Williams—Steele (Salem)—Ceylon.

The Township of Preble, in the northwestern part of the county, was chiefly settled by Germans, commencing in 1830 and continuing to the present. The pioneers of this section located along the old Winchester Road, which runs to Fort Wayne, and the St. Mary's River, which cuts across the northeastern corner of the township, was another good means of transportation to the northwestern metropolis. Preble Township is not only overwhelmingly German-American, but is the stronghold of Lutheranism in Adams County. The German Lutheran and Reformed churches are everywhere.

Township of Churches and Schools

The first Lutheran Society was organized at Friedheim in 1838. Not long afterward the central and southern parts of the township founded several churches, and the intelligent settlers of those parts also commenced to build schoolhouses for the education of their sturdy children. The Wafel schoolhouse was erected about 1841 and was located in the west part of section 26, and the Fuhrman School, about two miles north, in section 23, was built in 1843. They were both rough log houses. Later came the frame schoolhouses—the Dirkson, completed in 1852, and the Fruchte, in 1853.

In 1848 the Evangelical Association built a church at the southwest corner of section 13, about a mile west of the river, and in 1857 the German Reformed Congregation erected the Salem house of worship in the eastern portion of section 28, in the southwestern part of the township. In 1847 the St. John's Lutheran Church was built in the Dirkson neighborhood, and was occupied for thirty years, or

until a substantial brick meeting house replaced it. In 1878 the St. Peter's Lutheran Church was completed a short distance from what is now Preble station and village. While the different congregations were preparing to provide their people with meeting houses, religious services were usually held in the schoolhouses, which were most convenient to the various neighborhoods.

Magley

Preble Township has two villages, which were founded when the Erie road named them as stations on its line. Magley was fathered by Jacob Magley, who in 1882 was appointed station agent and opened a general store. A creamery and stock yards were afterwards established at the station, which became considerable of a shipping point and around which collected a small group of buildings, sometimes dignified by the name of village. The only church of a strictly local nature is the Salem Reformed, of which Rev. J. Otto Engleman is pastor. The public school building at Magley was erected in 1902 at a cost of $16,000.

Town of Preble Platted

The Town of Preble, which was platted November 14, 1884, on the southwest corner of section 36, and the southeast corner of section 35, has developed into a brisk village, largely as the result of the concentration of large Standard Oil Company's interests at that point. The original proprietors of the town were Daniel Hoffman and David Werling, and the plat comprised thirteen lots. Soon after Preble was laid out, tile and saw-mills were located there, and within a few years the expansion of the place induced Mr. Werling to make an addition to the original town.

Standard Oil Company's Station

The oil station at Preble was built by the Indiana Pipe Line Company in 1889-90, and has been improved and increased in size several times. The plant is one of a chain of fifteen or twenty pumping stations forwarding oil from the Mid-Continental Field to the Sea Board. The oil from the west is simply received at the Preble station and pumped on to the next station. The plant now comprises sixteen iron storage tanks, with a total capacity of about 568,000 barrels, and in its operation employs a considerable number of men

and represents an important local industry. S. D. Henry is the manager at Preble.

Other Preble Institutions

The Preble Elevator Company, managed by Albert Huser, and the Farmers' State Bank, are also evidences of local trade and neighborhood thrift and productiveness. The bank was organized by John G. Hoffman, in January, 1915, that gentleman having been its president ever since. Its cashier is L. Adler. The capital of the bank is $25,000, and its resources, $130,000.

At Preble and in the immediate neighborhood are four Lutheran churches and a German Reformed Congregation. The latter is the well-known Salem's Congregation, which was organized in June, 1856. Its first meeting house was completed in January, 1857, and the present house of worship in July, 1893. The successive pastors of the congregation have been Revs. Peter Vitz, Carl Jaeckel, Peter Greding, Wilhelm Spietz, Gustav Beisser, E. Delorme, Eduard Voenholt, Calvin Schneider, Chris Baum and Otto J. Engelmann. The present membership of the Reformed Salem's Congregation is 180.

Pleasant Mills

Pleasant Mills, on the western bank of St. Mary's River, in the township by that name, is an old and a pretty rural settlement and postoffice, which was platted September 8, 1846, from parts of sections 20, 21 and 28. The first settlers of the township located on the old Wayne trace twenty years or more before, but there was no settlement of any note until Pleasant Mills was laid out by E. A. Goddard and George W. Heath. In December, 1850, they made an addition to it, and in the '50s it was quite a flourishing place. Although the first mill in the neighborhood was built as early as 1834 on the east side of the river, it was rather an insignificant affair compared with the grist mill completed in 1837 on the opposite shore by Mr. Goddard. He also opened large general stores in connection with his mills. In 1846 the original plant was transformed into a woolen factory and a new grist mill was erected. The combined plant was operated for about fifty years and rebuilt, in 1896, by J. C. Cowan and W. W. Smith. It was around these industries that Pleasant Mills developed, taking on new life, when the Clover Leaf touched it as a station, in 1880. It has never outgrown its status as a modest rural town, which is the shipping point of a considerable grain trade and

maintains an elevator and a few stores. The local brick schoolhouse was erected in 1881, having been enlarged and remodeled in 1897. At various periods it has supported Baptist, United Brethren and Methodist churches. The Methodist Society is of many years' standing, and is at present in the Bobo Circuit.

Linn Grove (Buena Vista)

Linn Grove, a postoffice in the southeastern corner of section 3, Hartford Township, was platted as Buena Vista, on March 25, 1857, and originally embraced portions of sections 2, 3, 10 and 11. Its site covered old Jamestown, which in 1838, was laid out in section 11, on the south bank of the Wabash, and was soon flooded out of existence by the spring freshets of that inconsiderate stream. In 1845 James McDowell built a union mill for sawing lumber and grinding grain on the present site of Linn Grove. This, with its successors, probably prompted Robert Simison to lay out Buena Vista on the west bank of the Wabash, in 1857. The original town, situated on the Fort Recovery & Huntington Road, contained sixteen lots and nine outlots, and an addition to it was made in 1869. Before the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad was built through the county to the east, in 1871, giving Geneva advantages over it which could not be overcome, Buena Vista was a brisk mill town and center of trade, as well as quite a political point for the conventions to nominate prosecutors and representatives for Adams and Jay and Adams and Wells counties. Its successor, Linn Grove, stands for a small collection of stores and houses, a feed mill, garage, a school and churches maintained by the Evangelical Association and Christian denomination. Linn Grove also has an Odd Fellows' Lodge (No. 683) organized in January, 1892.

Curyville

Curyville, which was platted February 26, 1880, is a station on the Clover Leaf line which was laid out on the northwest quarter of section 21, Kirkland Township. Henry Jackson was the original owner of the site. At first it was a timber town and, as such, possessed some promise of growth until the surrounding country was denuded.

Peterson

Peterson, a few miles to the northeast, on the same road, has had a similar history, although it was never platted as a town. In the '70s

Steele & Lenhart were operating a large sawmill and heading factory at that place, but the neighborhood supply of raw material gave out and made the enterprise finally unprofitable. Peterson, like Curyville, has reverted to a rural community, its trade being almost confined to handling grain and live stock.

Monmouth and Williams

Root Township, in the northern part of the county, has been rather unfortunate in founding towns which last. Old Monmouth, platted in 1836 and once considered a rival of Decatur, is but a memory; and the days of its prime were so long ago that it is hardly a memory except in the minds of the very aged.

The little town of Williams, which is situated on the north line of the county on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, was platted in June, 1872, but has gone the way of all the other communities which depended upon the local timber supply for its growth. The original owners of the site were David Crabbs and Benjamin Rice. Williams is now simply one of the hundreds of railway stations which at one time "amounted to something," but which, from circumstances not within its control, "lost out," "went wrong," etc.

Steele (Salem)

Blue Creek Township was in the direct line of the old Quaker trace, or Fort Recovery Road to Fort Wayne, with a cross branch to the Wabash River on the southwest. Some of the earliest pioneers of the county located in that section of the county, Thompson's Prairie being an especially favored locality in that regard. In November, 1867, at the crossing of the Fort Recovery and Willshire roads, in section 17, George W. Syphers laid out a town to which he gave the name of Salem. It was afterward rechristened Steele and, although it had no promise of business growth after all the railroads which were built through the county gave it the go-by, at one time it was quite a church center for the people of the southeastern part of the county. Its Presbyterian Church, built in 1850, was the only one of that denomination in Adams County south of Decatur, and the Methodists erected a meeting house later, while about a mile and a half east of Salem the Union Chapel was built by the United Brethren. Some of the first schoolhouses erected in the county, such as the Burde and Bryan, were also built in the central and southern parts of Blue Creek Township.

Ceylon

In Wabash Township, besides the old towns of Alexander and Buffalo which were absorbed by Geneva, there is Ceylon, now but a little group of buildings, but in the '70s, when timber in the adjacent country was still plentiful, a busy, if small, industrial center. The town was platted June 24, 1873, by Dr. B. B. Snow, and the paper recorded in the following month. Ceylon lies just south of the Wabash River in sections 20 and 21, and at the height of its prosperity had spoke, wheel, heading and stave factories, saw and grist mills, cooper shops, and a number of well-stocked stores. The Snow grist mill, built in 1873, was the first steam plant of that kind to be operated in Adams County south of Decatur. At the present time the most substantial looking building in the little rural settlement is the brick schoolhouse which was completed in 1894. The Ceylon Methodist Circuit had supplies for two or more years after it was set off from Geneva, and in the year mentioned erected a house of worship at that place.

CHAPTER XV

WELLS COUNTY

MATERIAL WEALTH AND PROGRESS

General Description—The Subsoil—Glacial Marks—The Foundation Soil—Topography and Drainage—Changes in Vegetation—Animals, Early and Late—Artificial Drainage in Wells County—First Open Ditches—Drainage Commissioners Under State Laws—First Public Ditches Partially Tiled—The Lake Erie Basin and Wabash River Valley—Ditches Paralleling Main Streams—The Great Northeastern Ditch—The Rock Creek Drain—Big Three Mile Ditch—Elick-Michaels Ditches—Large Tile Drains—Open Drain Through Solid Rock—Other Leading Ditches—Progress from 1908 to 1917—Agricultural Education—County Agricultural Organizations—The County Agent's Work—Increasing the Production of Corn—Protecting and Improving the Hogs—The Broad, Progressive Farmer of Today—Changes in Cereals and Live Stock—Comparative Soil and Animal Wealth (1884-1917)—County Acreage (1917)—Cereals of County (1917)—Live Stock by Townships (1917)—Population of the County (1860-1910)—Population by Townships (1890-1910)—Comparative Property Valuation (1884-1917)—Value of Taxable Property (1917)—Automobile Income and Roads—Finances of the County—Indebtedness on Account of Roads.

Wells County lies mostly in the Valley of the Wabash, or in the Ohio-Mississippi-Gulf of Mexico system of waterways. Like Adams County, it was in the natural course of travel pursued by both the reds and the whites in their journeyings from the more settled East and Northeast to the wilder West and Southwest. The general history of the two political divisions is therefore the same and the background of Indian migrations over trails fairly well defined when the American pioneers first made their homes in the Northwest Territory, as well as the earlier era of French exploration and exploitation, applies as

closely to Wells as to Adams County. It would therefore be a useless expenditure of mental effort either to repeat, even in substance, the earlier portions of this work, which dealt with such general historical matters, and with subjects of later date relating to American civil government over the territory now embraced in Adams and Wells counties while it was attached to other political bodies than those specially organized under those names.

General Description

The surface geology of the two counties has many points of resemblance, the most marked difference being that the watershed between the Great Lakes and the gulf systems, which passes almost

Evidences of Material Wealth

diagonally through Adams County, cuts across only a small corner of Northeastern Wells. The county now under special consideration is in Northeastern Indiana, and extends for twenty-four miles north and south. It comprises nine municipal townships—two tiers of four townships north and south, with Jackson Township jutting out to the west from the southern tier. It is 372 square miles in area, is the second county from the eastern state line and the fourth from the northern.

The Subsoil

Northern Indiana is covered with what is called in geology the "drift," consisting of gravel, sand and clay, deposited by water when it lay under that element. The "lake region" was one great body of

water, covering Northern Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, as well as Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc. The dip of the underlying strata in Northern Indiana is generally westward, but in Adams and Wells counties it is nearly northward and about eight feet to the mile.

Although most of the subsoil in this part of the state is gravelly, good commercial clay abounds in many places, so that brick can always be made convenient to the place of building. Valuable limestone for foundations, bridge abutments, etc., also abounds along the Wabash, Salamonie and St. Mary's rivers, near the surface, even cropping out in places.

Glacial Marks

South of the Maumee Valley is a terminal moraine, which is the summit of the watershed dividing the waters of the Ohio from those of Lake Erie, known as the St. John's Ridge in Ohio, extending westward into Jay County, Indiana, where it is known as the "Lost Mountains." The elevation of this ridge is nearly 350 feet above Lake Erie. The boulder clay is thicker here than in any other part of Northeastern Indiana. In Jay and Wells counties, scattered promiscuously, are found many specimens on top of the drift, of streaked and grooved boulders, the rounded and polished surfaces, often on the upper side, demonstrating that they had been ground and polished at a higher level, and then frozen in ice, transported, and dropped from the melting ice. Another expansion of the torrid zone drove the ice further north, leaving the great lake basin filled with water, which covered Upper Canada, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the northern portions (about half) of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The Foundation Soil

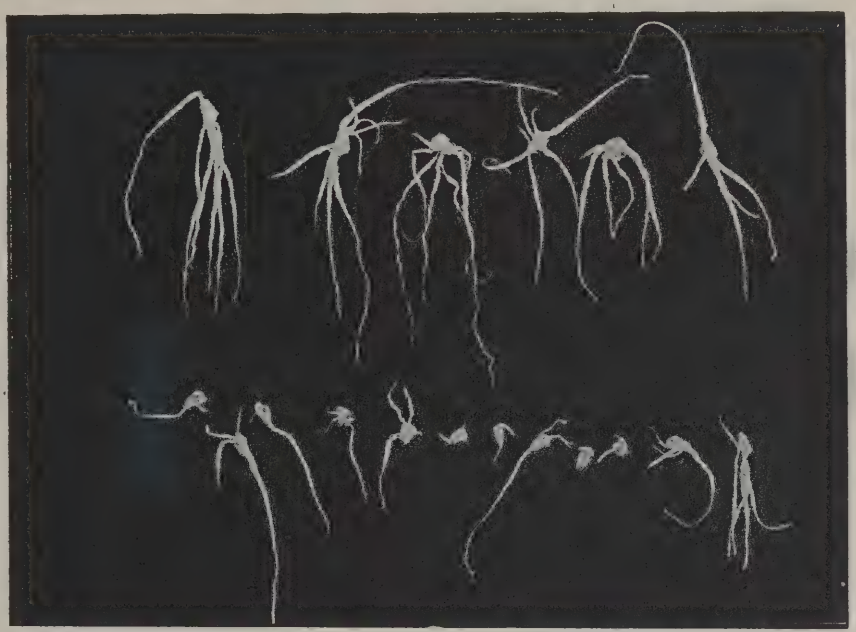
Wells and Jay counties have other superficial ridges, knolls, mounds, etc., the origin of which may be easily accounted for by any one familiar with the effects of winds and currents. Comparatively, these accumulations of sand and gravel are recent. Underlying them, and above the coarse gravel resting upon the bed-rock, is a thick stratum of fine clay, which is the foundation of the agricultural resources of this region.

Topography and Drainage

The surface of Wells and Adams counties varies from level to gently undulating, the level being inclined to have a swampy appear-

ance; but as the land is generally high above the rapidly running water-courses, it can be thoroughly drained, and ditches and tile drains are in rapid process of construction. The southeastern portion of this section, as before noted, is much the highest, and therefore the streams run in a northwesterly direction.

The largest stream is the Wabash, which runs northwesterly through Harrison, Lancaster and Rock Creek townships, Wells County. The second in size is the St. Mary's, draining the most of Adams County. Third, the Salamonie enters Wells County about a mile



Variety of Grain Germination

west of the center of the south line, and leaves the county a mile west of the middle of the north line of Jackson Township. Rock Creek rises in the western portion of Nottingham Township, flows a little west of north through Liberty and Rock Creek townships, emptying into the Wabash in Huntington County. Six-Mile Creek drains the eastern portion of Nottingham Township, and empties into the Wabash about three miles above Bluffton; and Eight-Mile Creek rises in the eastern part of Jefferson Township, and flowing a little north of west, leaves the county at its northwestern corner.

Changes in Vegetation

When the white man first entered this region he found it covered with a dense growth of white, burr and black oak, white elm, basswood (lin), ash of two or three varieties, beech, sugar maple, hickory, yellow poplar and walnut. Two or three specimens of sweet gum were noticed in early days. The blackberry was the most valuable of the wild fruits in this section. About eleven miles south of Bluffton, thirty years ago, there were 320 acres of blackberry in one piece.

Cultivation has introduced weeds from the East to supplant, in a great measure, the native herbs. The first introduced were the dog fennel or mayweed, jimson-weed, cocklebur and smart-weed; but as no plant can hold a spot of ground beyond a limited number of seasons, some of these have given way to the ragweed; and this, in turn, shortly yielded the situation to the sweet clover, a more welcome visitor than all, as it is a prolific source of honey, and no disagreeable feature. The ox-eye daisy also flourished in a gravelly soil. Dandelion, white clover and blue-grass carpeted most of the ground in the early days.

Animals, Early and Late

The largest and most conspicuous animals found here by the early settlers were the following: Black bear, in limited numbers, and soon killed off. Rarely, in later years, an individual or two might be seen straying along here from Michigan. The Virginia deer, in great abundance. The last seen in this region was about 1875. Panthers and wild cats, beaver and porcupine, were rare. Raccoons, once abundant, are now rare. Opossums came in between 1840 and 1850, became common, but a severe winter in the '80s killed off what the dogs and hunters had left. Foxes, once common, are now seldom seen. Wolves, at first numerous, were all killed off many years ago. Ground-hogs, or "wood-chucks," were never plentiful, and are so scarce now that seldom can one be found. No otters have been seen for many years, though they were frequent in early days. A few muskrats remain. Wild hogs, that is, domestic hogs escaped and running at large until they fully attained the savage state, were common in pioneer times. In a few generations these animals became as furious and dangerous as wolves. In primeval times there sometimes occurred a "raid," when squirrels, pigeons, etc., would migrate across the country in incredible numbers. About the year 1855 there was a squirrel raid here, eastward in its direction. Wild turkeys, once plentiful, are now rare.

Very early the farmers of Wells County—and nearly everyone was a farmer to a certain extent in the pioneer times—realized that in order to make the progress which was warranted by the natural richness of their soil they must subject it to systematic and scientific artificial drainage. As already seen, the physical features of the country were well adapted to aid this purpose of the settlers; this fact, combined with their determination, energy and foresight, has brought about a potent change in the line of marked development. The successive steps of this great evolution in the advancement of Wells County, with brief mention of those substantial citizens who

Special Dairy Herd

have stood by these drainage improvements from first to last, are described in a paper which has been furnished by Thomas C. Guldin, the surveyor of Wells County, than whom none can speak with more practical authority. The article follows.

Artifical Drainage in Wells County

By Thomas C. Guldin

The early settlers that came to Wells County made their homes along the natural water courses and on the more undulating portions of the county because of the natural drainage. Much of this land in the county is too level, and the soil too heavy and compact, to be successfully farmed without some artificial drainage. Even the more rolling land which sheds the surface water quite readily is improved by subdrainage.

In the earliest efforts at artificial drainage the farmers either individually or by agreement cut shallow open channels to drain the

surface water more readily. These channels were extended farther and farther back from the natural streams and deepened from time to time, as the increase in population demanded.

First Open Ditches

The first drainage ditch established by law was the Burns Ditch, which is located in Chester Township. Joseph Burns et al. were the petitioners. The petition was presented to the Board of County Commissioners in March, 1876. Henry Oman, Jacob Stahl and James Crosbie were appointed as viewers and they were ordered to report their proceedings at the September, 1876, session of the County Commissioners.

The viewers reported favorably and the ditch was ordered constructed. The ditch was 24,700 feet in length and the estimated cost of construction was $1,789.60, the excavating being estimated at 12½ cents per cubic yard. The ditch was constructed by allotting to each interested party whose lands were benefited, a certain portion of said ditch for construction.

Drainage Commissioners Under State Laws

Until 1881, all public ditches were constructed by petition in the Commissioners Court. In 1881 a law was passed by the General Assembly of Indiana whereby ditches could be established through Circuit Court. William Kirkwood of Nottingham Township was the first man to serve as drainage commissioner as provided in that act. W. H. Gregg of Rock Creek Township, W. A. Popejoy of Poneto, and R. C. Stewart of Lancaster Township have served as drainage commissioners. John F. Stine of Jefferson Township is the present incumbent. The first ditch established under the law was petitioned for by Jonathan A. Markley of Lancaster Township.

First Public Ditches Partially Tiled

A few public ditches were partially tiled as early as 1886, but only a few were thus established before 1903. In the year 1903 William J. Smith et al. of Jefferson Township petitioned for an open drain, known as the Parkison Ditch and a portion of the Ballinger Ditch to be reconstructed by tiling the same. The viewers reported favorably and said drain was tiled to the center of section 27, in Jefferson Township. By subsequent petition another tile ditch parallel with the former

ditch was established and the tile was extended more than a mile, the terminus now being at the Fort Wayne Road one mile south of Ossian. Since 1903 many open ditches have been tiled and are at the present time being thus improved.

The Lake Erie Basin and Wabash River Valley

A very small portion of the eastern part of Lancaster Township and about one-third of Jefferson Township drain into Adams and Allen

The Wabash at High Water

counties, and the water goes through the Saint Mary's and Maumee rivers to Lake Erie. The Wabash River enters Wells County near the center along the east line of Harrison Township and flows northwesterly through the county, leaving it near the northwest corner of Rock Creek Township. The Salamonie River enters Wells County near the center of the south line of Chester Township, flows northwesterly and leaves Wells County about two miles east of the northwest corner of Jackson Township.

Ditches Paralleling Main Streams

Eight Mile Ditch and Rock Creek Ditch are two channels which parallel the main rivers, both draining large portions of the county and both having been enlarged by dredge construction, whereby many acres of land have been reclaimed and now constitute the very best farm lands within the bounds of Wells County.

The Great Northeastern Ditch

In 1888 the Eight Mile No. 2 Ditch was petitioned to be reconstructed. Several interested parties remonstrated, reviewers were appointed and the ditch was ordered established and reconstructed in 1891 at a cost of a little more than $25,000. The main ditch commences on the Wells-Adams County line at the northeast corner of Lancaster Township. Wells County, Indiana, runs thence in a northwesterly direction across Jefferson and Union townships to a point about sixty rods north of the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 12 in Union Township. At the present time there is a petition on file to widen and deepen this drain and to extend it to a point about sixty rods west of the northeast corner of section 6 in Union Township where said ditch crosses into Allen County. The viewer's report has not yet been filed, but enough work has been done on the same to give an approximate estimate of its cost which will be more than $150,000 and will affect and benefit approximately 40,000 to 45,000 acres of land; about 10,000 acres in Lancaster Township, 20,000 in Jefferson Township, 9,000 in Union Township and about 4,000 in LaFayette Township in Allen County.

The Rock Creek Drain

Rock Creek, another drain which has been enlarged by dredge, commences near the southwest corner of section 28 in range 12 east in Nottingham Township and flows in a northwesterly direction through Nottingham, Harrison, Liberty and Rock Creek townships and crosses the county line on the west about one-half mile north of the southwest corner of section 18 in Rock Creek Township, Wells County, and affects about 300 acres in Jay County, 8,000 acres in Nottingham Township, 4,000 acres in Harrison Township, 7,000 acres in Chester Township, 19,000 acres in Liberty Township, 4,000 acres in Rock Creek Township, besides 6,000 or 8,000 acres in Huntington County. The portion of the ditch in Harrison and Liberty townships was con-

structed and enlarged by dredging in 1893-97, and about two miles in Rock Creek Township was made deeper through solid rock. The estimated cost of this reconstruction was $59,971.64. At the present time the portion of the ditch in Nottingham and Harrison townships is being reconstructed with a dry land dredge. It was petitioned for by Abraham Haines et al. and the estimated cost is nearly $17,000. A petition is on file and viewers have been appointed for the reconstruction and extension by widening and deepening that portion of the ditch located in Liberty and Rock Creek townships. The viewers have done no work on this project and it is impossible to give an estimate of the extent, cost and number of acres that will be affected.

Big Three Mile Ditch

The Daniel C. Shoemaker et al. Ditch, more commonly known as Big Three Mile, is a ditch now under construction. This drain is a joint drain with Adams County and affects about 5,000 acres in east Nottingham Township. It commences near the center of section 32, township 25, north range 13 east, runs northerly and empties into the Wabash River near Linn Grove. To give proper drainage to much of the land affected at the upper end of this drain it is necessary to excavate through solid rock for a distance of over a mile. The estimated cost of the ditch is nearly $15,000.

Elick-Michaels Ditches

The A. J. Elick and Harvey Michaels ditches in Union Township, are among the largest tile drains in the county. The A. J. Elick et al. Ditch affects about 1,500 acres of land. The main ditch with its laterals constitutes a system of drainage of about 6 miles in length, including 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 22, 24 and 30-inch cement tile. This ditch was constructed in 1915 and 1916. The estimated cost was $9,501.43. The Harvey Michaels et al. Ditch is now under construction. It is a system of drainage made up of two main lines, one terminating with 27-inch tile and the other with 24-inch tile. The whole system affects about 1,600 acres of land; main and laterals is about 7 miles in length including 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 27-inch cement tile. The estimated cost of said ditch is $13,075.77.

Large Tile Drains

In Rock Creek Township several open ditches have been tiled since 1908. John Raber No. 1 estimated cost $2,701.24, John Raber

No. 2 estimated cost $6,667.95, Peter McAfee No. 1 estimated cost $4,281.42, Peter McAfee No. 2 estimated cost $5,129.20, John Falk estimated cost $3,992.37 and D. W. Lesh estimated cost $3,596.08. All have been constructed since 1900. A petition is now on file to tile an open drain commencing near the center of section 34 in Rock Creek Township and running thence in a general northerly direction about three miles. This petition was filed by Simon Houtz et al., and it will affect about 2,300 acres of land. It probably will require from 18 to 36-inch tile if the viewers grant the ditch, as prayed for.

In Liberty Township, the Peter Gaskill and I. N. Roush ditches are among the largest tile drains. The Peter Gaskill drain includes about three miles of tile ranging from 12 to 24-inch cement tile. This drain was constructed in 1913-14 at a cost of $7,648.39. The I. N. Roush Ditch is now under construction. There are about five miles of tile ranging from 6 to 30-inch, and three miles of open drain. The entire drain was estimated at $8,128.58. This ditch is located in the southwest part of the township and runs in an easterly direction.

Open Drain Through Solid Rock

The viewers' report on the Joseph Delong et al. Ditch is on file at this time and, if ordered established as reported on, will be one of the most expensive drainage systems ever established in this county for the number of acres affected. This ditch commences in section 18, township 26, north range 12 east, and runs thence easterly and northerly about five miles to the Wabash River. The total length of that drain, main and laterals, being about 6 miles of tile and about 3 miles of open drain; 1,200 feet of the open drain will be in solid rock from one to three feet deep. The estimated cost of the entire project is $36,000.

Other Leading Ditches

In Jefferson Township, the William J. Smith No. 2 Ditch referred to before, the Valentine, the Ira Beck, J. H. Zimmerman, James McNeal and Fred Lipp ditches are tile drains of recent construction.

The Valentine Ditch is a joint ditch with Allen County estimated cost $41,248.15. The Fred Lipp Ditch was tiled at a cost of $3,487.80. The McNeal Ditch was tiled at a cost of $4,665.35. The William J. Smith No. 3 Ditch was tiled at a cost of $11,000.00. The Ira Beck et al. Ditch was tiled at a cost of $6,704.00. All of these ditches were constructed with clay tile except the Smith Ditch. The J. H. Simmerman petition calls for a tile drain to affect about 1,800 acres of land

in Jefferson Township and for an open drain of about four miles into Allen County. The viewers have made no report on the petition, but will, no doubt, be the largest drainage project affecting Jefferson Township, except the Eight Mile No. 2.

The James T. Shady, the John Kehrn and the Peter Steffen ditches are the largest tile drains that have been constructed in Lancaster Township. The James T. Shady Ditch is a tile drain about 2½ miles long and has tile ranging from 12 to 24-inch cement tile. Estimated cost was $5,210.95. The John Kehrn Ditch is about 3½ miles in length and has tile ranging from 18 to 24-inch clay tile. The estimated cost was $6,998.09. The Peter Steffen Ditch is a joint ditch with Adams County and was constructed with cement tile ranging from 22 to 27-inch. The estimated cost was $5,772.59.

The largest tile drains constructed in Nottingham Township were petitioned for by Geo. B. Schott and P. B. Alberson. The Geo. B. Schott Ditch is about 2½ miles in length, was constructed of cement tile ranging in size from 8-inch to 24-inch. The estimated cost was $4,222.92. The P. B. Alberson Ditch was constructed by using cement tile ranging from 8 inch to 22 inch tile and it is approximately 3 miles in length. The estimated cost was $4,608.39.

In Chester Township the largest tile drains constructed by petition are the Frank Mowery, and the John W. Gregg drains. The Frank Mowery Ditch is about one mile long and was constructed with tile ranging from 15 to 22-inch tile. The estimated cost was $2,658.51. The John W. Gregg Ditch is about one mile long and was constructed with 10-inch to 18-inch tile. The estimated cost was $1,241.71.

In Jackson Township the Davids Open Drain, the Clarinda Knott Ditch, the Arthur Kelley Ditch, and the Thomas Morris Ditch are the largest ditches constructed in recent years. The Davids is about 4½ miles in length and was reconstructed as an open drain in 1910 at a cost of $3,344.40. The Clarinda Knott Ditch is a tile drain which was constructed in 1908-9 primarily to drain the swamps a mile east of the center of Jackson Township at a cost of $3,833.74. The Thomas Morris Tile Ditch is in the northeast part of the township and was a joint ditch with Huntington County. It was constructed in 1910 at a cost of $4,699.00. The Arthur Kelley Ditch is a joint ditch with Blackford County. It is partly tiled and partly open ditch. The estimated cost of construction was $6,602.95.

Progress from 1908 to 1917

Prior to 1908 there were very few public ditches tiled. Since 1908 many of our smaller open ditches have been and are being tiled. As

the land is being thoroughly under-drained, thus forcing the water into our open ditches much quicker and faster, the open drains are insufficient to take care of the water and many of our open drains will have to be cut wider and deeper. Farmers are beginning to realize that thorough drainage is one of their biggest assets. Tile drains are being put in deeper and more systematically than ever before.

From 1908 to 1917 inclusive the farmers of Wells County have been assessed for constructing public drains the enormous sum of $523,474.11, most of which has been spent in tiling open drains. This does not include money and labor spent in the repair and maintenance of these drains.

The records in the county surveyor's office show that there are approximately 328 miles of open drain in Wells County, that have been constructed by petition. There are also several short open drains which were constructed by the interested parties without resorting to law. Approximately 244 miles of tile drain have been constructed by petition. Open drains not constructed by a dredge are repaired and maintained by the interested parties. The county surveyor allots to each tract of land affected a portion of said drain to keep in repair, in accordance with the original specifications. The township trustee of each township has supervision of the maintenance of all ditches that lie within the bounds of his township, except dredge ditches. Tile drains are repaired under the supervision of the township trustee, and paid for by the lands affected by such drains in proportion to the assessments for the construction of said drains. Open drains constructed by dredging are repaired and maintained under the supervision of the county commissioners and the county surveyor.

Wells County contains 572 sections of land or approximately 366,000 acres, almost all of which is tillable when properly drained. The undulating land along the northeast bank of the natural streams, approximately 50,000 acres, may be farmed without artificial drainage. However, proper subdrainage improves this land for farm crops.

Agricultural Education

Most of the really effective work which has resulted in the improvement of the farmers and their properties in Wells County has been accomplished through the cooperation of the rural communities with various officials of the county and the national governments. In the former class may be placed the county drainage commissioners

and surveyors (the duties of both officials usually being combined), the county superintendents of schools and the county agents. Th last named an official creation in Wells County only four years of age, represents the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Purdue University Agricultural Extention Department and the county board of education.

County Agricultural Organizations

Wells County had an agricultural society as early as 1853, when Rev. D. H. Drummond was elected its president. The Civil war interrupted the holding of its annual fairs, and in 1867 the society was reorganized, John McFadden being its president for some years thereafter. The second organization went out of existence about 1882, and the old fair grounds were sold for a park, which, in turn, reverted to farm land. The Wells County Agricultural Association, which was incorporated in 1906, has held eleven exhibits and street fairs, and it has always been considered that its main object has been accomplished when provision has been made for the recurrence of those affairs through the legal amount appropriated by the Board of County Commissioners and the funds raised by private subscription. Matters relating to the education and social uplift of the rural communities, in former years largely undertaken by the County Agricultural Society, have been assumed by the county superintendent of schools in cooperative work with the county agent. The officers of the Wells County Agricultural Association, who managed the fair and exhibit of September 25-29, 1917, were: D. V. Lamm, president; A. R. Williams, vice president; George L. Saunders, manager; C. W. Decker, secretary-treasurer.

The County Agent's Work

The first and only county agricultural agent who has been assigned to Wells County is Harry Gray, and the functions of his office are thus described in the section of the vocational educational law passed by the Legislature of 1913: "It shall be the duty of such agent, under the supervision of the Purdue University, to cooperate with farmers' institutes, farmers' clubs and other organizations, to conduct practical farm demonstrations, boys' and girls' clubs and contest work, and other movements for the advancement of agriculture and country life, and to give advice to farmers on practical farm problems, and aid the county superintendent of schools and teachers in giving practical education in agriculture and domestic science."

Increasing the Production of Corn

As the corn crop is Wells County's prime source of wealth, steps taken in improving the production of that cereal logically take first place in the work of the county agent. As he himself says: "This has perhaps been our most important work, as Wells County is primarily a corn and hog county, and an increase of only one bushel per acre on our sixty thousand acres, in a single year would pay the salary of the county agent for twenty years. The work was commenced in October of 1914 by holding seed corn selection meetings in each of the nine townships of the county, where the type of ear and stalk was studied and attention paid to methods of storing seed corn.

A Seed Corn Selective Meeting

Great stress was laid upon the importance of selecting seed from the fields before it was injured by killing frosts. The nine meetings were held upon farms where we could go into the corn fields and were attended by 167 men and 334 children. This was followed by putting cards into the schools for the purpose of getting reports of the probable corn acreage of 1915, the amount of seed corn selected from the field and when and how it was stored. Not a great number of these cards came back to me, but those that did showed that the farmers were depending too much on crib-selected corn.

"At the meetings we used charts showing the possible yields with given stands and weights or ears, and the per cent of stand and cost of production in the Five-acre Corn Contest in Indiana in 1914. We also

showed the difference in vitality of different ears of corn by exhibiting the sprouted grains as taken from the germination box. As a result of these various efforts more farmers in this county this season tested their seed corn than in any previous seasons. This means better stands of corn and consequently increased yields. If we could get only one farmer in each four in the county to discard a single dead ear and plant a good one in its stead, we would secure the one bushel increase.''

Protecting and Improving the Hogs

In the line of ''hog improvement'' work, the county agent reported: ''This has been along the line of Hog Cholera control and the feeding of better rations. A serum depot was maintained in Bluffton in 1915 and one Anti-Hog Cholera organization formed. The great difficulty in the control work is to get men to realize that cholera is a community problem, and there is an immense amount of work ahead along this line. A number of hog owners have been persuaded to feed better rations to their sows and growing pigs.''

The Broad, Progressive Farmer of Today

There have also been ''wheat production'' campaigns, horticultural and dairy extension work, horse improvement meetings, ''drives'' to control oat smut, potato scab and other fungus and insect threats, and farm surveys for the purpose of collecting data on management and business efficiency. Before the county agent commenced his work two farmers' clubs had been organized in his territory and since then many have been established. Under direction of the county superintendent of schools, he has met with teachers' institutes, visited schools and, in numerous instances, has listened to recitations, and examined the pupils themselves, on agricultural matters which came within the scope of his work. Each Saturday during the school terms it is the custom of some of the teachers to call at his office in Bluffton, in order to consult and co-operate with him. Perhaps the most common topic of consultation between the county agent and the teachers of the country schools relates to the contests in corn growing, poultry raising and sewing, which were inaugurated by the county superintendent several years ago. In this special work the county superintendent of schools is the leader and the county agent is directly under him. Their close and warm co-operation in Wells County has resulted in striking benefit to its boys and girls. These activities, coupled with the social and literary benefits enjoyed by the members of the

farmers' institutes and clubs; the extended advantages of school and traveling libraries, telephone service, automobiles, traction machinery, improved roads, scientific drainage, and a hundred other blessings of today (so widespread that they have become almost necessities), have made the typical agricultural life of Wells County not only one of independence, but of breadth, health and true development.

Changes in Cereals and Live Stock

As an agricultural and live stock county, Wells has witnessed a number of positive transformations within the past thirty years.

Seen at a Live Stock Improvement Tour

Its wheat crop, which in the '80s was such a source of wealth and pride is now small, while its corn lands have almost doubled in area and much more than doubled in productiveness. Both in the acreage sown and the yield, oats have increased more than threefold. Timothy has about held its own in acreage and quantity produced. In live stock the greatest gain has been in milch cows and the most pronounced loss in sheep. Thirty years ago Wells County was raising three times as many sheep as it is today. The actual number of its

horses, cattle and hogs has not much increased, although all of them show a decided improvement in breeds.

Comparative Soil and Animal Wealth (1884-1917)

In 1884 the chief cereals of Wells County were the following, as indicated by the figures: Corn, 34,607 acres, with a production of 821,585 bushels; wheat, 28,272 acres, 370,507 bushels; oats, 7,727 acres, 253,921 bushels; timothy, 16,289 acres, 25,880 tons. The live stock: Number of horses, 6,679; cattle, 13,149; hogs, 26,672; sheep, 12,045. Division of lands: Timber, 66,260; newly-cleared, 2,039; idle plowed, 8,144; grass lands, 5,741.

Accompanying these and other figures taken from the census of 1884 is the note: "But it must be borne in mind that the official census generally falls far short of giving the full amount." The same may be said of the statistics gleaned from the township assessors books which assume to bring these items up to January 1, 1917; in fact, some of these officials, such as those representing Lancaster and Union, have the grace to admit that their returns are "incomplete." It is probable that from 25 to 30 per cent added to the total of any of these items would be much nearer correct than the figures as they stand; but they are the best which are accessible.

County Acreage

Township	Leased or Rented	Pasture	Timber
Chester	17,082	5,176	1,323
Harrison	21,159	2,273	1,431
Jackson	22,649	6,474	2,433
Jefferson	19,816	3,131	1,920
Lancaster	4,986	896	359
Liberty	20,150	4,405	1,587
Nottingham	13,953	2,323	959
Rock Creek	21,937	3,310	2,226
Union	4,416	675	205
Totals	146,148	28,663	12,443

Mabel and Litter Mate

Coming Live Stock Man

CEREALS OF COUNTY (1917)

Townships	Corn		Oats		Timothy	
	Acres	Bushels	Acres	Bushels	Acres	Tons
Chester	4,447	130,455	2,708	62,420	2,574	2,444
Harrison	6,323	237,962	3,677	114,630	2,188	2,510
Jackson	6,197	204,466	3,281	83,067	1,985	2,456
Jefferson	5,252	210,080	3,347	100,310	3,109	4,305
Lancaster	3,240	93,315	2,050	53,737	1,885	2,278
Liberty	5,308	267,340	3,928	116,370	2,500	2,743
Nottingham	3,833	140,720	2,326	62,101	1,500	1,596
Rock Creek	6,200	276,360	3,666	135,418	1,758	2,326
Marion	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	40,800	1,560,688	24,983	728,053	17,429	20,658

LIVE STOCK BY TOWNSHIPS (1917)

Townships	Horses	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
Chester	702	1,232	2,500	463
Harrison	859	1,839	2,873	1,082
Jackson	855	1,657	5,054	578
Jefferson	781	1,362	2,863	551
Lancaster	1,493	1,395	2,850	188
Liberty	958	1,596	5,019	399
Nottingham	516	1,074	1,976	315
Rock Creek	871	2,063	5,437	966
Total	7,055	12,218	28,562	4,542

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY, 1860-1910

The first United States census of Wells County was taken in 1860, when it had a population of 10,844; the figures had increased to 13,585 in 1870; 18,442 in 1880; 21,514 in 1890, and 23,449 in 1900. The decadal enumeration of 1910 indicated a decrease of population, being given at 22,418.

The census of 1880 produces a number of interesting items. In that year the population by townships was as follows: Chester, 1,668; Harrison, 4,389 (including Bluffton, with 2,354 and Vera Cruz, 260); Jackson, 1,496; Jefferson, 2,262; Lancaster, 1,806; Liberty, 1,752; Nottingham, 2,057; Rock Creek, 1,412, and Union, 1,600.

Nativity: American, 17,851; foreign, 591. Of the American-born, the division by states was: Indiana, 11,879; Ohio, 3,958; Pennsylvania, 991; New York, 136; Illinois, 86; Kentucky, 83. Of the foreign-born, Germany furnished 206; Ireland, 133; England and Wales, 55; Scotland, 26; British America, 16; France, 1; Sweden and Norway, 1 each.

POPULATION BY TOWNSHIPS, 1890-1910

	1910	1900	1890
Totals	22,418	23,449	21,514
Civil Divisions			
Chester Township, including Keystone Town..	1,929	2,345	1,937
Keystone Town	242	250	
Harrison Township, including Vera Cruz Town, and parts of Bluffton and Poneto Town	6,742	6,548	5,764
Bluffton City (part of)	4,848	4,479	3,589
Total for Bluffton City in Harrison and Lancaster townships—Ward 1, 1,269; Ward 2, 2,022; Ward 3, 1,696	4,987	4,479	3,589
Poneto Town (part of)	112	71	
Total for Poneto Town in Harrison and Liberty counties	308	332	
Jackson Township	1,778	2,237	1,731
Jefferson Township, including Ossian Town..	2,617	2,455	2,476
Ossian Town	661	529	
Lancaster Township, including part of Ward 1, Bluffton City	2,371	2,169	2,030
Bluffton City (part of)	139		
Liberty Township, including part of Poneto Town	1,846	1,976	2,037
Poneto Town (part of)	196	261	
Nottingham Township	2,219	2,654	2,284
Rock Creek Township, including parts of Markle and Uniondale Towns	1,442	1,560	1,609
Markle Town (part of in Huntington Township)	74		
Uniondale Town (part of)	158		
Total for Uniondale Town in Rock Creek and Union townships	189		
Union Township (including part of Uniondale Town)	1,474	1,505	1,646

Comparative Property Valuation (1884-1917)

The assessors who went among the farmers and villagers of Wells County in 1884 reported the following as their grand conclusions: Number of acres of land, 231,098, valued at $3,177,635, with improvements amounting to $795,005; lots, $263,545, and improvements, $374,615; personal property, $1,568,165. Total value of taxable property, $6,178,865. It will be seen by a comparison of the valuation of the farming lands with improvements and the improved village and town lots that the latter were assessed at between 18 and 19 per cent

Wells County Percherons

of the former. At first thought, a resident of Wells County would be rather positive that the more than thirty years which had passed since that time would have advanced city and village property much more proportionately than agricultural lands; but such is not the case, and the figures which cover the same items for 1917 show that there has not been a change of 1 per cent in the comparative value of urban and farming real estate in Wells County.

Value of Taxable Property (1917)

The following table exhibits the total value of taxable property in Wells County in January, 1917, by townships, town and city (Bluff-

ton). It shows the area of the county in acres, and the real estate is divided into "lands," or farms, and "lots," or village and city property. The lands and lots, with improvements, make the total real estate assessed for taxable purposes.

Townships	Acres	Lands and Improvements	Lots and Improvements	Personal Property	Total of Taxable Property
Jackson	22,844.60	$ 916,300	$ 5,840	$ 377,975	$ 1,300,115
Chester	22,869.68	943,235	4,695	278,440	1,226,370
Keystone (town)	42.32	10,850	10,725	12,225	33,800
Liberty	21,824.03	912,600	13,040	354,175	1,279,815
Poneto (town)	7.79	1,120	23,480	64,500	89,100
Nottingham	30,510.66	1,263,155	20,945	508,880	1,792,980
Rock Creek	22,630.05	999,920	3,495	474,200	1,477,615
Markle (town)			11,360	8,380	19,740
Uniondale (town)	40.01	12,195	33,760	69,695	115,650
Union	22,450.48	915,375	20,500	278,260	1,214,140
Jefferson	29,929.76	1,129,380	18,055	370,455	1,517,890
Ossian (town)	5,854.	28,195	84,260	126,970	239,425
Lancaster (town)	30,151.40	1,281,570	30,355	462,830	1,774,755
Harrison	29,116.47	1,378,300	7,410	518,565	1,904,275
Vera Cruz (town)	5,124.	3,050	12,635	28,270	43,955
Bluffton (city)	19,807.	138,040	1,619,765	196,990	2,554,795
Totals	232,545.10	$9,933,285	$1,920,325	$4,730,810	$16,584,420

Automobile Income and Roads

The assessors also collected a number of interesting items, both in their "round-up" of personal property and real estate. It was ascertained that the gross receipts turned into the county treasury from the registration of motor vehicles (chiefly automobiles) amounted during the year 1916 to over $15,000. They also learned that there were 756 miles of gravel and macadam roads in Wells County, and 31,992 in the entire State of Indiana.

Finances of the County

The report of County Auditor C. T. Kain for the year ending December 31, 1916, adds much in the way of information about schools, roads and other vital subjects, to the facts already conveyed, and also gives a definite idea of the county government as a financial and a business organization. The total received from all sources for the year amounted to $815,818.85; disbursements, $726,308.40; balance December 31, 1916, $97,193.96. This sum, less overdrafts of $7,683.51, left a net balance of $89,510.45. The schools and the roads of the county drew most heavily on the treasury, the former to the extent of

about $170,000 and the latter (roads) about $100,000 more. The books further showed that more than $6,000 was expended on the up-keep of the County Poor Farm, some $5,500 on the Bluffton Library and nearly $12,000 on the electric light and waterworks plant.

Indebtedness on Account of Roads

The following table shows the bonded indebtedness of the various townships on account of free gravel and stone roads, and forcibly indicates the preponderance of Harrison Township in that regard:

Townships—	Bonds Outstanding January 1, 1917	Principal on Bonds Payable in 1917	Net Bonded Indebtedness After Deducting 1917 Payment
Jackson	$ 8,424.00	$ 1,128.00	$ 7,296.00
Chester	54,048.00	8,664.00	45,384.00
Liberty	42,814.00	8,950.00	33,864.00
Rock Creek	71,793.72	10,717.32	61,076.40
Union	41,766.28	8,394.68	33,371.60
Nottingham	35,588.00	10,624.00	24,964.00
Harrison	196,524.00	30,012.00	166,512.00
Lancaster	72,660.00	15,630.00	57,030.00
Jefferson	90,702.00	16,588.00	74,114.00
Totals	$614,320.00	$110,708.00	$503,612.00

Northern Indiana were laid out—that is, legally created, although not organized as civil bodies: Wells, Jay, DeKalb, Steuben, Whitley, Kosciusco, Fulton, Marshall, Stark, Pulaski, Jasper, Newton and Porter.

Captain Wells, After Whom the County Was Named

As will be noticed, the new counties carved out of this raw Indian country were named mainly in honor of well known statesmen and Revolutionary heroes. Perhaps of the entire list the average reader will be less familiar with the personality of the man honored by the sponsors of Wells County, although there was probably no hero identified with the War of 1812 whose life was more romantic and whose fate at the Fort Dearborn massacre was more to the credit of a brave soul than Capt. William Wells. By reading the following narrative of the captain's death at the hands of treacherous savages, with an account of his previous career, none need be ashamed of the man chosen to give his name to Wells County.

The Fort Dearborn Massacre

On the 18th of June, 1812, the United States declared war against England, and on the 16th of July, Fort Mackinac surrendered to the British. On the 9th of August following, an Indian runner from General Hull, at Detroit, brought news of the war and the fall of Mackinac, to Captain Heald, with orders to evacuate Fort Dearborn and proceed with his command to Detroit, by land, leaving it to the discretion of the commandant to dispose of the public property as he thought proper. Within the next three days neighboring Indians came in from all quarters to receive the goods which they understood were to be given them. It might seem as if no other course was open to Captain Heald but to obey the orders of General Hull. His force was not as strong as that at Fort Mackinac. It consisted of fifty-four privates, and two officers, Lieut. L. T. Helm and Ensign George Ronau. Twelve militia men were also under his orders. Of the regulars, a large number were on the sick list. Altogether there were not probably forty able-bodied fighting men. With them were about a dozen women and twenty children. He received his orders on the 9th. But he trusted to the friendly reputation of the Pottawatomies, through whose country he must pass, and waited for six days, until 400 or 500 warriors were assembled at the fort, before he moved. He was then at their mercy.

Garrison Preparing for Departure

The Pottawatomie chief who had brought General Hull's orders was Winnemeg, a friendly Indian, who well knew the feelings of the Indians. He at first advised that the fort be held, until reinforcements should arrive. To this Captain Heald would not agree. Winnemeg's next advice was instantaneous departure, so that before the Indians could assemble or agree upon definite action, and while they would be taking possession of the goods, the force might make its escape. Mr. John Kinzie, who had long known the Indians, approved of the same course. The younger officers were in favor of holding the fort—but Captain Heald resolved to pursue his own way. This was to assemble the Indians, divide the property among them, and get from them a friendly escort to Fort Wayne. On the 12th a conference was held with the Indians by Captain Heald, and they agreed to his proposals. They would take the property, and furnished him a guard of safety. Whether they really would have done so it is impossible to know, but Black Hawk, who was not present at the massacre, but knew the Indian version of it, subsequently said that the attack took place because the whites did not keep their agreement. There were two species of property that the Indians chiefly wanted, whiskey and ammunition. There were large quantities of both at the fort, and the Indians were aware of that fact.

Captain Wells' Life of Romance

On the 13th, Captain William Wells, Indian agent at Fort Wayne, arrived at Fort Dearborn with thirty friendly Miamis, for the purpose of bringing Captain Heald on his way. Captain Wells had lived among the Indians, and was cognizant of their character. He was the uncle of Mrs. Heald; born in Kentucky, and belonged to a family of Indian fighters. When he was a lad of twelve, he was stolen by the Miamis and adopted by Little Turtle, their great chief. He served with the Indians at the outbreak of the war in 1790, and was present at the battle where St. Clair was defeated. But he then began to realize that he was fighting against his own kindred, and resolved to take leave of the Indians. He asked Little Turtle to accompany him to a point on the Maumee, about two miles east of Fort Wayne, long known as the Big Elm, where he thus spoke: "Father, we have long been friends. I now leave you to go to my own people. We will be friends until the sun reaches the midday height. From that time we will be enemies; and if you want to kill me then, you may.

And if I want to kill you, I may." He then set out for General Wayne's army, and was made captain of a company of scouts. He fought under General Wayne until the Treaty of Greenville, after which he removed to Fort Wayne, where he was joined by his wife, who was a daughter of Little Turtle. He settled upon a farm and was made Indian agent and justice of the peace. He rendered effective service to General Harrison, the governor.

Arrival of Captain Wells Too Late

When Captain Wells heard of the intended evacuation of Fort Dearborn he volunteered to go there and act as escort to the soldiers. He arrived at the fort on the 13th of August, too late, however, to have any influence on the question of evacuation. Captain Heald had up to this point resisted the advice of Winnemeg, the friendly Indians, John Kinzie and his junior officers, as to adopting any other course. But now after all his firmness came a period of irresolution.

Destruction of Liquor Infuriates Savages

The supply of muskets, ammunition and liquor was large. It was madness to hand over to the Indians these supplies with which first to excite and infuriate them, and then to leave them with still more abundant means of wrecking that fury on the garrison. This fact was strongly urged by both Captain Wells and John Kinzie. Captain Heald yielded, and on the night of the 13th destroyed all the ammunition and muskets he could not carry with him. The liquor was thrown into the lake. No sooner was this done than the older chiefs professed that they could no longer restrain their young men.

Black Partridge, one of the most noted Pottawatomie chiefs, and always friendly to the whites since the Treaty of Greenville, had received a medal from General Wayne at the time of that treaty. On the evening of the 14th he came to the fort and entered Captain Heald's quarters. "Father," he said, "I come to deliver up to you the medal I wear. It was given me by the Americans and I have long worn it in token of our mutual friendship. But our young men are resolved to imbrue their hands in the blood of the whites. I can not restrain them, and I will not wear a token of peace while I am compelled to act as an enemy."

The Death March from Fort Dearborn

The Indians held a council and resolved on the destruction of the garrison. And yet, with the most heroic fortitude and constancy, the

officers made their final arrangements for the evacuation, sustaining and encouraging the men by their words and by their example. At 9 o'clock on the morning of the 15th of August, all being in readiness, the gates of the fort were thrown open for the last time and the march commenced. In accordance with Indian custom and in premonition of his fate, Captain Wells had blackened his face. With fifteen of his Miami braves, whom he supposed to be trusty, he led the advance. The other fifteen wagons brought up the rear. The women and children were in wagons or on horseback. Brave John Kinzie determined to accompany the troops, hoping that his presence would be the means of restraining the Indians. Entrusting his family to the care of some friendly Indians to be taken around the head of the lake in a boat to a point near St. Joseph, he marched out with the troops. He was warned by several friendly chiefs not to accompany the soldiers, but he was determined to do all in his power to bring some restraining influence to bear, if possible, on the savages. The strains of music, as the soldiers passed beyond the gates, were certainly not enlivening. By some strange wierd choice of the bandmaster, who was among the killed, the "Dead March" was played as the soldiers filed out from the protection of the fortifications on the open plain. Scarcely had the troops departed, when the fort became a scene of plundering.

The Ambuscade and Massacre

Along the lake shore ran a beaten Indian trail, which was the path pursued. Westward from this, at about 100 yards distance, commencing perhaps a quarter of a mile from the fort, a sand bank, or range of hills, separated the lake from the prairie. When the troops started an escort of 500 Pottawatomies accompanied them, but when the sand hills were reached the Indians struck out towards the prairie, instead of keeping along the beach. Concealing their movements behind the sand hills, they hurried forward and placed an ambuscade in readiness for the troops. The little band had marched about a mile and a half when Captain Wells, who had led the advance, came riding swiftly back, saying that the Indians were about to open an attack from behind the sand bank. The company charged up the bank, firing one round which the Indians returned. The savages, getting in upon the rear, were soon in possession of the horses, provisions and baggage, slaughtering many of the women and children in the attempt. Against fearful odds, and hand to hand, the officers and men, and even the women, fought for their lives. But it was soon over. Drawing his little remnant of survivors off an elevation on the open prairie, out of

range, Captain Heald himself wounded, proceeded to examine the situation. The Indians did not follow, but, after some consultation of the chiefs, made signs for Captain Heald to approach them. He advanced alone and met Black Bird, who promised to spare their lives if they would surrender. Upon these terms, Captain Heald complied with the demand.

Among the killed were Captain Wells, Ensign Ronau and Surgeon De Isaac Van Voorhis. The wounded were Captain and Mrs. Heald and Lieutenant Helm and wife. Every other wounded prisoner was put to death. Of the whole number that left the fort but an hour before, there remained only twenty-five non-commissioned officers and privates and eleven women and children.

The number of Indians engaged was between 400 and 500. Their loss was about fifteen. The Miamis fled at the first attack, and took no part whatever in the fight.

Captain Wells, after fighting desperately, was surrounded and stabbed in the back. His body was horribly mangled, his head cut off, and his heart taken out and eaten by the savages, who thought, by so doing, some of the courage of the heroic scout would be conveyed to them.

The day following the massacre, the fort and agency building were burned to the ground and the first Fort Dearborn ceased to be. The prisoners were scattered among the various tribes, and a large number of warriors hastened to attempt the destruction of Fort Wayne.

Dr. Joseph Knox and the Norcrosses

Dr. Joseph Knox was the first white man to make his home in Wells County, being also the first to settle at any point between Fort Recovery and Huntington, and that was in the year 1829, on the southeast quarter of section 18, Lancaster Township, near Murray postoffice, or the village of Lancaster. Shortly after his location there he was joined by his two sons-in-law, Vantrees and Warner, who "took up" the tracts since known as the Robert and James Harvey farms. Both came with their families and remained until 1832, when they were all frightened out of the country by wild rumors concerning the Black Hawk war.

Allen and Isaac Norcross came in 1831, settling near the river below Bluffton, the former locating on the eastern bank. They also left during the Indian excitement of 1832, returning to New Jersey, their native state. After the Black Hawk war, Allen came again to his chosen location. He was a rather singular character, although in-

telligent and well-educated and sociable. Although he resided here until his death in 1879, except a number of years in Texas, he passed a sort of hermit life, scarcely ever appearing in town or in public except on circus days, when he was sure to be present, with a smiling, happy countenance. At these shows he would take his seat early, rest his hands and chin on the top of his cane, and take in everything with the utmost eagerness. Indeed, it is said that one of his chief objections to removing further west was the fact that he would in a great measure be deprived of the privilege of attending circuses. He had a wife and five children, the latter of whom went to Texas. After the loss of his wife Mr. Norcross partially "kept bach," and, although affable with visitors, kept himself singularly dissociated from the outside world. His death was the result of injuries received in a runaway, and his remains lie buried in the Murray graveyard.

After his death there was found in his possession Government bonds to the amount of $13,000, concealed in a stack of sugar buckets in the smoke-house. To the different classes of these bonds he had a unique system of indexing. He was in the habit of keeping his currency sealed in fruit-cans, and buried in the ground a hundred yards from the house. In his hermit leisure he contracted many peculiar habits. William Norcross moved to Texas in 1844.

Nun McIntyre

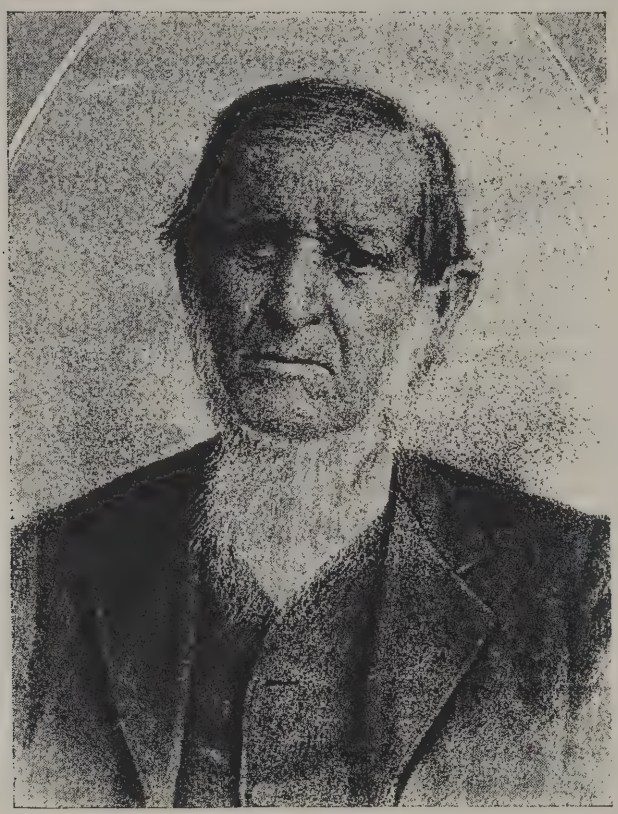
Among the pioneers who located in Wells County previous to May, 1837, when its civil organization was effected, were Nun McIntyre, who was a native of Virginia, came to the county in 1836, served as a probate judge and in other public offices and died in 1881, and Henry McCullock, who located in Chester Township in 1835, but was not so well known.

Tree Dwellers of the County

Almon Case, a Yankee of good sense and ready wit, arrived about 1836, and celebrated his coming by having a "spell of the ague" of three weeks duration, during which period he curled up in a hollow sycamore log lying on the future site of Bluffton, near where McFarren's clothing store stood many years afterward. Mr. Case became the first hotelkeeper in Bluffton and was the original contractor of the 1845 court house. He died at Vera Cruz, Wells County, in 1875.

William Barton came from Vermont in 1836 and, like Mr. Case, is said to have first occupied a hollow sycamore tree. His improved

residence was in Rock Creek Township on land which subsequently became the McAfee farm. As Mr. Barton was six feet three inches tall (long), it is said that in order to get the full benefit of the shelter he kept his body inside the trunk of the tree and inserted his feet,



Bowen Hale

which were "left over," in the hollow of a protruding root. He moved to Allen County in 1839 and died in that part of the state.

Bowen Hale, Pioneer Benedict and Merchant

Few of the older generation of Wells County pioneers retained the confidence and affection of all classes as long or as firmly as Bowen Hale. He was a Kentuckian, born in Mason County, July 4, 1801. His grandfather was an Englishman and a slaveholder, who freed his chattels after they had cleared his Maryland plantation and partially transformed the tract into a family homestead. John Hale, his father, was born in that state, but moved to Ohio while Bowen was an

infant, served in the War of 1912 from that state, and in 1837 located in Whitley County, Indiana, where he died at the age of seventy-three. The youth of Bowen Hale was passed on his father's farm in Greene County, Ohio, near the old town of Bellbrook. He assisted his father both in his tannery and on his farm. In that neighborhood, also he attended school in a backwoods cabin and even taught a few months himself. His mother having died when he was quite young the boy remained with his father until he reached his majority, when he left home and learned the chair-making business, which he followed for several years, working in Dayton, Xenia and Cincinnati. During this period he took a trip South, going down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in a steamboat. In the state of Mississippi he followed house-painting, having become skilled in that trade while painting chairs in the shop.

Starts Trading Post Near Murray

After his return from this trip Mr. Hale engaged in the mercantile business in Bellbrook, Ohio, until 1834, when he sold his interest in the store, and came to Wells County in 1835, his physician having advised him to go West for his health, telling him that unless he did so he could not hope to live very long. Consequently, he started into the woods to seek a home. He came down the Wabash River, and being charmed with the fertile lands along the Wabash, he stopped near the Town of Murray and resolved to make this his home. His father three years later passed by these lands and settled on the higher and more broken lands in Whitley County. Here Mr. Hale entered forty acres of land, hired a man to build him a cabin, and started to Cincinnati for a stock of goods, having resolved to start a post to trade with the Indians and the few white inhabitants in the county, there being only about twelve white families within the limits of Wells. On his return, in the spring of 1836, he found that his cabin had not been built; but he went to work, and with the assistance of Henry Miller and others, soon had a comfortable cabin, suitable for store-room and living-room. His customers were mostly Indians, who were peaceable, yet like most men, red or white, were dangerous when filled with fire-water. His stock of goods consisting of brass rings, whiskey and such articles of clothing as the Indians usually wore, were converted into pelts, there being but little money in the country. These pelts were conveyed usually on Henry Miller's wagon to Dayton, Ohio, or Cincinnati, and there sold. As a matter of course, he left nothing behind in his cabin, as the Indians ransacked that as soon as he was gone. The trip to Dayton and Cincinnati usually took about three weeks or longer.

Not a Mighty Hunter

Although Mr. Hale had made his home in this wild country, and in common with all that hardy race of pioneers, the first settlers of Wells County, had many narrow escapes from wild animals and wild men, yet he was strictly a man of peace, and never was a hunter, and tells with considerable satisfaction that he never killed but one deer in his life, and that he stood in the door of his cabin and shot. Seeing the deer quietly grazing in front of his door, an Indian who was present picked up his gun to shoot it, when Mr. Hale asked him to let him shoot, and he took his gun and shot, killing the deer. He often said he had all the hunting he wanted in keeping the turkeys, squirrels and other animals out of his corn fields.

Mr. Hale was first married in 1837 to Miss Sarah James, a native of Virginia, who died in two years and three months after her marriage, without children. His was the first marriage of a resident of Wells County. At the time there was no justice of the peace accessible and he therefore took his bride to Fort Wayne to have the knot legally tied. In the year 1840 he married Miss Mary Ann Deam, of Montgomery County, Ohio, a daughter of Adam Deam, probably from Virginia, who afterward removed to Wells County and settled near Murray and built the first grist mill at that place. Adam Deam had four sons—Abraham, William, John and James P.—William and James P. each served as treasurer of Wells County; and four daughters, Rachel, Mary Ann, Harriet and Ann. Mrs. Hale died in the year 1872, leaving Mr. Hale again a widower. They had eight children, seven of whom survive—John D., clerk of Adams County; Hon. Silas W., of Geneva, Adams County; James P., of Bluffton, deceased; Lewis B., deceased, residing on the old homestead; Emerillas, wife of A. R. Vanemon; Jane, the wife of Daniel Markley, and Mary, living at home with her father. At the organization of Wells County in 1837, Bowen Hale was elected to the offices of auditor, clerk and recorder, or rather these three offices were then combined in one. He continued to hold these three offices until 1841, when an auditor was elected and he was relieved of the duties of that office. Ten years later Wilson M. Bulger was elected recorder, leaving Mr. Hale with the office of clerk, which he continued to hold until 1855, making a total of twenty years in the clerk's office alone, his time having expired by the limit of the constitution, and although urged to accept it again he declined to do so. He also for a short time during this period held the office of postmaster, he being the first postmaster in the county. In the year 1858 he was elected to the office of magistrate and filled the office for three years.

Again, in the year 1865, he was elected, against his wishes, to the office of county commissioner. Being indisposed at the time, he was not even aware that he was a candidate until the day of his election. Thus is his history the history of Wells County; coming into public life before the organization of the county, for twenty-six years he was a servant of the people of Wells County, and her interest was his interest, and to say that he did his work well is wholly unnecessary. The people have said as much by their ballots. Never were the

Modern Clearing of the Forests

affairs of any county better or more honestly administered. His records are neat, legible, perfectly formed, accurate and complete and excite the admiration of the most skilled attorneys.

A Bluffton Merchant

When he removed from his farm near Murray Mr. Bowen brought his dry goods store with him and continued in that business for a short time, his store being a log cabin on Market Street, the town being then in the woods with heavy timber and thick underbrush in all the

streets. Hon. John Studabaker became his rival in business, his store being also on Market Street, and they cleared the brush out of the street so that they might be able to see from their boarding-house a square away, to their respective places of business.

Lost a Good Lawyer But Poor Speller

Mr. Hale tells, among many instances of his early pioneer life, of a young limb of the law who landed in Bluffton with the avowed intention of practicing his chosen profession. He sought Mr. Hale and asked permission to make the clerk's office his law office for a short time, which request was granted, and the young lawyer sat down to work. Concluding it would be well to advertise his business, he wrote his card on a sheet of paper and posted the same on a tree standing at the crossing of Main and Market streets. When Mr. Hale went to supper he walked up and read it, and after the young lawyer's name, in large letters, were the words "Eterney at Law." Mr. Hale informed the young man of his mistake, who immediately tore down the advertisement and left town; he located in an adjoining county, and now bears the honorable title of "Judge." Thus, by a mistake in spelling, the town lost a lawyer, judge and citizen.

Mr. Hale was always a democrat, his first vote for president being cast for Andrew Jackson. He never was, however, much of a politician, according to the usual application of that term, and never electioneered for himself; it is said that he once started out for that purpose, but was so disgusted with the business that after going a few miles in the country he turned his horse toward home and never tried it again. When the Civil war broke out, two of Mr. Hale's sons enlisted, and at the Battle of Missionary Ridge John D. was shot through the body, and lay in the hospital at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mr. Hale, even then an old man, went to Chattanooga and brought him home. In 1858 Mr. Hale retired with his family to his farm, where he passed his last years at a venerable age. In his earlier life he became a member of the Universalist Church, and was for many years a trustee of that church at Bluffton, and was to the end a believer in the doctrines as taught by Ballou, Chapin and others. He also joined the Masonic Lodge at Bluffton, was for many years a member of Bluffton Lodge, No. 145, and, to the last, maintained the high standard of their tenets.

The Harveys

Robert and James Harvey were among the real pioneers of the county, and settled at what became the site of the village of Murray,

in Lancaster Township. The former, who was born near Knoxville, Tennessee, located in 1832, and died ten years later after he had made a home for his wife and family. Mrs. Harvey afterward married David Aker, and lived for many years on the old Harvey homestead. In the autumn of 1833 he followed the Indian trails to section 19, Lancaster Township, and threw up a rude log cabin without doors or windows in which he lived the following winter. He brought his family with him. In the spring they were able to raise a few vegetables, but life was a fierce struggle for several years.

Henry Miller

For many years previous to his death in Lancaster June 25, 1882, Henry Miller held the undisputed title of "oldest settler of Wells County." On the 10th of November, 1832, he made his home near where Murray now stands, having been preceded only by Dr. Joseph Knox and the Norcrosses. There he purchased the land on which he lived almost fifty years. Mrs. Miller died in 1887, the mother of ten children. Henry Miller was among the best known of the old settlers. Although he never became wealthy, he was hospitable and generous, and was a steadfast patron of churches, schools, roads, bridges, and everything else which could make the community a better and more comfortable locality in which to live and bring up families to be good Americans.

Pioneer Events

The first white child born in what is now Wells County was Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller. She was born in 1835, married Jacob R. Harvey and, for many years, lived at Murray.

Before county organization, while Wells was still attached politically to Allen County, ten or twelve votes were cast by the citizens of the region (in 1836).

The first wedding in Wells County was that of Robert Simison to Miss Rebecca Davis, in February, 1837, at the residence of James Harvey. It was solemnized by 'Squire Hood, of Fort Wayne, as at that time there was no minister or justice of the peace any nearer who could tie the knot. Mr. and Mrs. Simison celebrated their golden wedding at Buena Vista.

The first mill was built at Murray in 1837 by Jesse Gerhart. Through many alterations and remodelings it continued to be operated

for many years. It is said that Michael Miller brought the first barrel of flour into the county in that year.

The first school in the county was taught by Jesse B. McGrew in 1837. It was located on the farm of Adam Miller up the river from Bluffton.

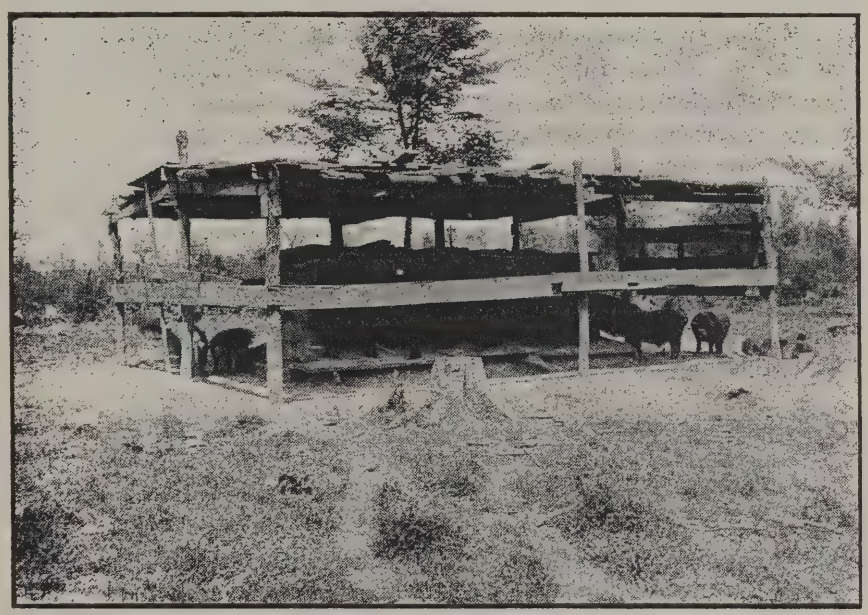
Thus, in a fashion, has the historical ground been cleared which covers the eight years of pioneer settlement in Wells County before its citizens organized a government of their own.

Greatest Drawback to Settlement

The first settlers within the present limits of Wells County thus located along the Wabash River, in Lancaster, Harrison and Rock Creek townships. Rock Creek, the principal tributary of the Wabash, runs between the parent stream and the Salamonie River. All their tributaries had their origin in the many swails, or "slashes," as they were called in the local dialect of the country, and the water supply, in the early times, was purely of a surface character. Before thorough drainage changed the condition of the lowlands along the Wabash and its tributaries, they were covered with water during the thaws of winter and the freshets of spring. Later, the surface waters were heated by the summer suns, evaporation followed and the final result was a steaming country covered with a putrid mass of vegetable and animal matter. Then arose the marsh miasma and vitiated air hovered over all the land; the impartial sapping of the vitality of its dweller, whatever his age, or precaution, and the insidious approach of a dozen forms of disease.

One of the old-time physicians draws the picture of the country and its pioneers thus, and his description is an explanation of why the early doctors of the county chose to cast their lots where they did: "However limited our knowledge is in regard to what marsh miasm is, whether gaseous, meteoric, vegeto-animal, or vegetable spores, as some claim, the fact remains patent that it requires a temperature of sixty degrees and upward, a soil rich in organic elements, and a sufficient amount of moisture to generate a cause that will always weaken and retard the efforts of the pioneer to pave the way for a higher civilization in a fertile country. There is no other cause that will produce so many pathological deviations as this has done in times past, before the hand of improvement sapped its strength, and reduced it from a primal cause to an unimportant factor in the complication of other diseases as we see it to-day. Its effects were impartially distributed; neither age, sex or condition were spared its inflictions. The

springtime of life, the summer of manhood, and the autumn of hoary age, were equally alike the subject of its visitations. It had no limit to its pathological range, from the simplest intermittent down to the deadly algid, and from the harmless remittent to that of a malignant or pernicious type, that frequently ended in sudden death. In some instances the stomach and bowels received the shock, and produced gastro-enteric hemorrhages that threatened the life of the patient, for the time being. In others the cranial nerves received the brunt that conveyed the impression of an acute attack of meningitis. While in others again, a coma so profound was developed suggesting a fatal case



HOME-MADE SELF-FEEDER

of apoplexy, while yet in others a gentle soporific condition was wrought simulating a tranced state resembling death, by the apparent suspension of all functional movements. Such and many more uncommon deviations might be noticed as falling under the observations of those physicians who first aided in the development of this country.

"The old settler's improvement, or rather clearings, as they were called, rarely exceeded a few acres in extent, with the primitive log cabin somewhere near the center and a log stable off to one side. It was nothing but a mere hole or opening in the forest that permitted the heat of the summer's sun to reach the earth and warm it, and the

air enclosed within. As the latter became heated it also became buoyant through rarifaction, ascended upward, leaving a partial vacuum, which was filled by the cooler air of the surrounding forest in the daytime. While toward the approach of night, with the declining sun, evaporation was partially stayed, a thin vaporous cloud was formed which covered the entire improvement like a blanket suspended a few feet above the earth's surface. In most instances in which the settler was located the soil was so constantly saturated with moisture that a shallow excavation lined with a few feet of Sycamore gum furnished an ample supply of water. During the winter's cold it answered every purpose, but as warm weather approached there was an increased demand for its use which was not so satisfactory. It had lost its refrigerating qualities, and its warmth had developed a disagreeable brackish taste that no species of filtration could remove. In this condition some boiled it, and after it settled, used it, and considered this made quite an improvement upon the original, and no doubt but what it was, as it destroyed all the germs and microbes that an open soil failed to retain.

"It was from such conditions that malaria gathered strength, and became the primal cause in the genesis of disease that gave to the fertile valleys of the Maumee and Wabash the unsavory reputation of the white man's necropolis."

Wells County Pioneer Association

On September 10, 1879, the Wells County Pioneer Association was organized at Bluffton. At the same meeting the members arranged to visit the state fair at Indianapolis, as the managers of the exhibition had promised passes to all persons over seventy years of age who had resided in the state forty years or more. N. Kellogg was elected president; Michael Karns, treasurer, and J. C. Silver, secretary. Under the stipulated conditions, seventeen residents of Wells County attended the state fair in 1879. The fifth old settlers' picnic and celebration had been held during the previous Fourth of July; the first occasion of the kind had been celebrated July 4, 1859. The Pioneer Assocation of 1879 endured only a few years, when it was allowed to lapse, and there has since been no regular organization of the kind.

General Pioneer Pictures

Before getting into the details of county organization, professional experiences and personalities, military matters and the histories of

the corporations and the townships of Wells County, there are several pictures of pioneer times which naturally arise for presentation. That done, the preliminaries necessary to a general advance all along the line may be considered as cleared away. Hunting subjects are ever-perennial; hence, they lead this list.

The Chase in Wells County

Pioneer life naturally develops great hunters. Conspicuous among such in the early epoch of Well County were Isaac Covert, "Wils." Bulger and others. Messrs. Covert and Miller indulged in the luxury of killing she bears and robbing them of their cubs. On one occasion, in 1836, Messrs. Covert and Isaac Lewallen were trapping near Samuel Crum's farm in Rock Creek Township, and discovered that an otter had burrowed itself in the bank of the river. They dug it out, but it sprang into the stream. They had no gun, and Covert, a large and plucky man, fearing that he would lose the object for which he had labored, jumped in after it. A combat ensued, in which Covert came out victorious, though with several wounds. He killed the otter by choking and drowning. Lewallen stood off and participated in the conflict by "hurrahing for our side."

Isaac Covert

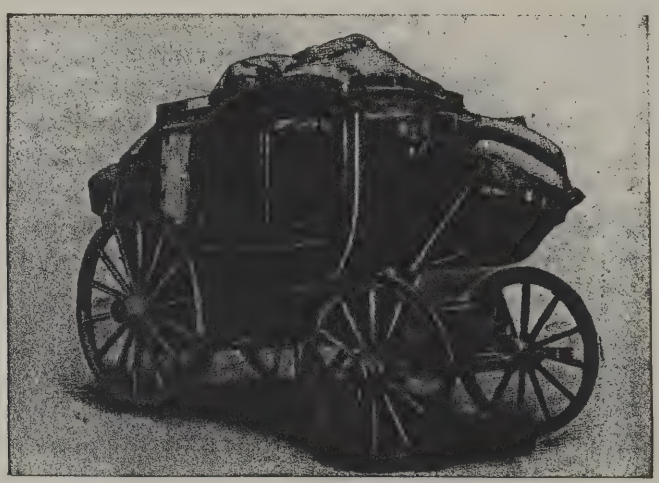
Mr. Covert trapped many wolves through the country, which he lashed into slavery, tied lin bark in their mouths, strapped them on his back and brought them to market. But the unaided efforts of all the hunters were not sufficient to extirpate the howling fraternity, and the Board of Commissioners, with an eye to wool-growing, offered, in January, 1839, a premium of $1 for every wolf scalp brought them. This encouraged the slaughtering business and made the trade lively. Covert then had plenty of help, yet the board, in March, 1840, increased the premium to $2. In a short time, however, they rescinded this order, as they ascertained that an old gentleman southwest of Bluffton had domesticated a lot of she-wolves and at divers times sold scalps of their young to the commissioners.

As late as the spring of 1886 a circular fox hunt was organized in the county, resulting in the slaughter of several foxes.

"Wils." Bulger

"Wils." Bulger, the "Davy Crockett" of Indiana, the "Killbuck of the Wilderness," is noted as being one of the greatest hunters of

his day, killing as high as sixty-four deer in one season. Of course, his anecdotes of the chase are numerous and interesting, and he has not a reputation for exaggerating. In calling a turkey, and in the imitation of the tones, etc., of many other animals, he could deceive the most practiced disciple of Nimrod. Many a laugh has he created at the expense of rival hunters. Mr. Bulger (Wilson M.) spent the last year of his long life in his quiet home near the foot of Main Street, Bluffton. He was a great reader, though deeply and continuously careful of what he read, and was, therefore, self-refined and truly cultured. His old age was sweet and mellow, and, although he was a firm believer in Universalism when those of his creed were often



Old Mail Coach Loaded

bitterly criticised, in his arguments with the equally positive Methodists of Bluffton, which were lively and of long duration, good old "Wils." Bulger never was known to lose his even temper.

The Wild Woman

Between 1840 and 1850, in the woods east of Bluffton, there resided a woman who was held to be "wild." Although occasionally she would venture to a pioneer's cabin and beg for something to eat or wear, as a rule she obtained what she needed or wanted by systematic thievery of neighborhood gardens and fields. While speculation was at its height, as to whether the woman was an escaped lunatic from some asylum, or just "queer," Abram W. Johnson and his wife

were out walking in the woods one day, when they were assailed by an overpowering odor of decay. They traced its origin to a hollow log, in which was the corpse of the Wild Woman of Bluffton.

Paying Postage Some Job

In the early times of Wells County, when postage on a letter destined for a point five hundred miles away was twelve and a half cents, and the wages for a day's work was not much more than that sum, Benjamin Starr, who had located about nine miles south of Bluffton, in the edge of Chester Township, came to town one fine morning and found a letter in the postoffice coming to him when the postage upon it could be paid. He was in real trouble, for the communication was from his old home in the East and he was naturally anxious to read it; but he had no money with which to pay the postage, and others to whom he might apply with good grace were equally short. But 'Squire Hale came to the rescue. He had a well which had to be cleaned out and gave Brother Starr the job; which occupied the balance of the day, but enabled him to meet his postage bill.

CHAPTER XVII

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

First Steps in Organizing Wells County—How Bluffton Won the County Seat—Report of the Locating Commissioners—First County Board—Its First Meeting—Moderate Taxes—Election Districts and Townships—Official Bowen Hale—Surveyor Casebeer and the First Public Roads—Various Official Appointments—Bluffton Surveyed and Platted—First Treasury Report—The First Court House and Jail—The Second (Brick) Court House—Present Jail and Sheriff's Residence—The Court House of the Present—County Infirmary and Orphans' Asylum—Roster of County Officials 1837-1917—Some Old-Time Office Holders—Early Schools and Teachers of the County—Tendency of Late Years—Historic Development of the System—The High Schools of the County—Uniform High School Course—Agriculture and Domestic Science Introduced—Most Modern School Buildings—Teachers' Institutes—Professor Allen's Sketch of the County Schools—Increased Value of School Property in Thirty Years.

Historically, the first form of American government which had jurisdiction over the country now included in Wells County was that extended by the General Government through the Northwest Territory, by the Ordinance of 1787. The first county government which embraced it was organized in 1796. In that year Wayne County was created and its civil jurisdiction extended over an empire—twenty-six counties in the present Northwestern Ohio, the southern peninsula of Michigan and Northern Indiana. How that domain was divided and subdivided within the following sixty years has already been described, and the civil historical record, as it affects Northeastern Indiana and Wells County, has been brought down to the general act of February 7, 1835, by which the Indiana Assembly, through its committee on new counties, created thirteen counties, including Wells, from the former Indian country embraced in old Wayne County.

First Steps in Organizing Wells County

An act was passed, and approved February 2, 1837, to organize Wells County May 1st following, appointing David Bennett, sheriff, to notify the electors to meet at the house of Robert C. Bennett, to elect three commissioners, and also appointing five commissioners, non-residents, to locate the county seat. As these five commissioners

Present Wells County Court House

for some cause failed to meet, a special act of the Legislature was passed, and approved January 20, 1838, appointing Zachariah Smith, of Adams County, Christopher Hanna, of Jay County, Champion Helvy, of Huntington County, William Kizer, of Randolph County, and John Rogers, of Grant County, commissioners to locate the permanent seat of justice for Wells County. Having been duly notified by Isaac Covert, by this time elected sheriff, of their appointment, four of them came, the absent member being Zachariah Smith.

How Bluffton Won the County Seat

The contestants for the county seat of government were Bluffton and Murray, and at first the four commissioners were evenly divided between the two points. Their first vote was taken about dusk in the evening. Mr. Abraham Studabaker, whose land lay at Bluffton, conferred with Daniel Miller, of Adams County, who also owned property near Bluffton, and was present at the county seat contest. The result of the deliberation was that Miller should immediately post off on horseback to Adams County, and fetch in Smith, the absentee, in time for the final vote in the morning.

It was a very cold March morning; ten inches of snow was on the ground; not a single road had been cut; and there were only traces through the timber. Mr. Miller followed the Wabash fourteen miles, to the residence of Peter Studabaker, where he obtained a fresh horse, and on he pushed twenty miles more to the St. Mary's River, near the state line, where he found his man, at 3 o'clock in the morning. Returning with him, they again obtained fresh horses at Peter Studabaker's, and reached Bluffton before the commissioners met in the morning, after the messenger had traveled nearly seventy miles, mostly during the night, through a deep, unbroken snow and severe cold. The vote thus procured cast the die in favor of Bluffton. One historian says that the victory was won for Bluffton by the $270 cash which Messrs. Bennett and Studabaker donated.

Report of the Locating Commissioners

The report of the commissioners reads thus: "We met at the house of Robert C. Bennett, in said county of Wells, on the first Monday of March, 1838, and have selected the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 26, Range 12, for the site for the seat of justice of Wells County, which land was donated by Abram Studabaker with a reserve of two choice lots. He also donated 31.90 acres off the east end of the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 33, Town 27, Range 12 east. Robert C. Bennett donates the southeast fraction of the northeast corner. Studabaker and Bennett also donated $270 in cash.

"Signed, March 9, 1838, Christopher Hanna, John Rogers, William Kizer, Zachariah Smith, Locating Commissioners."

First County Board

But county government did not wait for the locating commissioners to do their duty. Long before the county seat was located the citizens,

in June, 1837, proceeded to elect their County Board of three commissioners, namely, Solomon Johnson, James Scott and R. C. Bennett, Sr., for three, two and one years, in the order named. At this election six or seven non-resident land-holders living in Ohio were permitted to vote, especially as they intended soon to move into the county, among them being Dr. George T. Riddile, Adam Hatfield and John Greer.

Its First Meeting

The first acts of these commissioners, as condensed from their journal, were as follows:

The Board met Friday, July 21, 1837, at the house of R. C. Bennett, in accordance with the above recited act, and produced the certificates of the sheriff that they had been duly elected and qualified. David Bennett produced his commission appointing him sheriff (signed by Governor Noble) until the next annual election. Bowen Hale also produced a similar document appointing him clerk of Wells County. Both were certified to as having taken the oath as required by law. This being done, the Board was organized, with Solomon Johnson as president.

1. Ordered that W. H. Parmalee be appointed agent of the three per cent fund donated to the county by the state for roads and bridges. He accepted and gave bond.

2. That Adnah Hall be appointed treasurer of Wells County. He also accepted and gave bond, in the sum of $3,000.

3. That David Whitman be appointed assessor and collector of revenues for the county. His bond was fixed at $800.

4. That for county purposes there be levied 18 cents on each $100 valuation, and 50 cents on each poll.

Moderate Taxes

For several years taxes were often settled for by a promissory note, endorsed by two good men. Adnah Hall, treasurer, had a little book of blank notes printed and bound for the purpose, with his name as payee. For the first three years after the organization of the county it is said that the treasurer kept his office in his jacket pocket, but was never corrupted or approached with a bribe while discharging his trust. The fees of the office for a while necessarily exceeded the funds in the treasury.

As at that time the Government lands were exempt from taxation

five years after entry, there were but three tracts of land in the county subject to taxation. The first tax duplicate was made out on a single sheet of paper.

Election Districts and Townships

The fifth order made by the board next day was that Wells County be divided into two election districts, by a line commencing on the southern boundary of the county and running north between what is now Chester and Nottingham townships, and Harrison and Liberty townships; thence east two miles between Harrison and Lancaster townships; thence north to the county line. The territory on the east of this line was designated as Harrison Township, and that on the west as Rock Creek Township.

Since then the townships have been set off as follows: Jackson, September 4, 1837; Jefferson, March 3, 1840; Nottingham, January 4, 1841; Chester and Lancaster, March 1, 1841; Liberty, June 8, 1841, and Union, June 7, 1847—immediately after the land there came into market, subsequent to the extinguishment of the Indian title. Jackson has been called the "lost township," because the counties around it happened to be so formed that it could not be attached to any one of them without forming a geographical projection.

Official Bowen Hale

At the above session of the board, Bowen Hale was granted a license for one year, for the sum of $5, to retail merchandise and foreign groceries "not a product of the State or of the United States."

On September 4, 1837, the board met, and "on motion took their seats." Bowen Hale was allowed $56 for books for the use of the office, and other stationery, namely, inkstands, ink powder, etc.

Surveyor Casebeer and the First Public Road

John Casebeer was appointed the first surveyor, and the first road established in the county was that part of the state road leading from Greenville, Ohio, to Marion, Indiana. The expense of location through Wells County was $56.62½. The next located in the county was the Fort Recovery and Huntington Road, at the November session, 1837. For the opening of this road the board appropriated $1,000 of the three per cent fund.

Various Officials Appointed

David Bennett was paid $32.50 in full for his services as sheriff; Solomon Johnson, $8 for his services as commissioner; David Whitman, $6.56 for his services as "assessor of the revenue" of Wells County for 1837. John Casebeer was appointed assessor for 1838, and Thomas T. Smith school commissioner—the first in the county.

In August, 1837, an election was held, when Isaac Covert was chosen sheriff, and James R. Greer associate judge.

March 9, 1838, Mr. Greer was appointed county agent, and gave bond in the sum of $5,000.

Bluffton Surveyed and Platted

John Casebeer was allowed $38, May 7th following, for surveying and platting the site of Bluffton. The recorded plat bears the date March 23, 1838.

In January, 1839, the commissioners offered a premium of $1 for each wolf killed, the evidence of killing being the presentation of a fresh scalp. Adam Hatfield presented the first one the following May.

First Treasury Report

At the close of this year Adnah Hall, treasurer, made his report, covering a period from November 6, 1838, to November 6, 1839, which showed that there had been received into the treasury from all sources the sum of $1,419.40. His commission was $19.43; notes $301. Total assets of the county $1,701.41. This was principally derived from fines and sales of lots.

At the November session, 1839, Bowen Hale, clerk, reported that he had procured for the county a metallic seal, and the following description of the design was ordered to be placed on the minutes: "A sheaf of wheat is the main design; a plane, a rake, a pitchfork; surrounded by the following words: 'Commissioners of Wells County.'" Prior to this date a scrawl seal had been used in official business.

The First Court House and Jail

Thus the government life of Wells County has been brought into its third year. Its officials, not yet seriously pressed by their duties, had provided themselves with headquarters, the appointments of

which were measured by the very limited capacities of the county treasury. The first court house was situated on the west side of Main Street, between Market and Wabash streets. It was built of square hewn logs, was two stories high, the first floor being occupied for courts and all sorts of meetings, and the upper by one or two county offices that were in existence at that time.

On June 18, 1838, the commissioners ordered that John R. Greer, county agent, should advertise for the letting and building of a court

INTERIOR OF OLD COURT HOUSE

house in Bluffton, on the first day of August next. Specifications: The house to be built of hewn logs, 18x24 feet, two stories high, and covered with 3-foot boards, nailed on; floor to be oak or ash; with six 12-light windows, four below and two above, and stairs to upper room. Also one jail, of hewn timber one foot square, 18x20 feet, two stories high.

These structures were accordingly built, and were therefore very similar in appearance. They were erected by David Whitman, an old farmer residing in the country a few miles from Bluffton. The

jail was situated some twenty rods to the south, on the southwest corner of the lot, where the present court house now stands. Both these buildings were destroyed by fire many years ago.

The Second (Brick) Court House

On April 24, 1843, the board of commissioners contracted with Almon Case for the construction of the second court house at $5,000. He sold the contract to George W. Webster, of Marion, Indiana, who completed the structure in 1845; it was accepted by the board October 4, that year, and at the time it was one of the finest court houses in Northern Indiana; but the times have now far outgrown it. It was built of brick manufactured near by, fronted the east, with four large, tall columns forming the main portico, two stories high, the lower for court and the upper for county offices; but the upper story was partly abandoned. The county offices were accommodated in smaller brick buildings adjoining or on the premises.

About the years 1855-56, a brick jail was built a little south of the court house, but subsequently it was temporarily occupied by some of the county offices.

Present Jail and Sheriff's Residence

The third and present jail and sheriff's residence was built in 1880, at a cost of $21,400. Its dimensions were 44x80 feet, and 75 feet from the ground to the top of the spire; two stories high, mansard roof, of slate, cellar throughout, walls of brick, and the exterior of the French renaissance style. It is situated one square southwest of the court house. Jonathan P. Smith, of Bluffton was the contractor, and E. I. Hodgson, of Indianapolis, architect.

The Court House of the Present

By the late '80s the court house had become so dilapidated, not to say unsafe, that the project of providing a new one, and a building more suitable to the standing of Wells County, was made a legal issue. The result was that, in 1888, at the February term of the Circuit Court, Judge Henry Y. Saylor, issued an order from the bench condemning the old court house, and the Board of County Commissioners were, in a way, forced to erect a new one. The cornerstone of the structure now occupied was laid August 29, 1889, and it was dedicated by the bench and bar of the county on the 2d of

March, 1891. The total cost of the new court house, including erection and furnishings, was $140,000. Commissioners W. H. Rupright, Charles Scotten and Nathaniel McIntire awarded the contract, and accepted it complete in behalf of the county. The bills were O. K.'d by Charles M. Miller as county auditor. A general description of the court house of 1891 gives its dimensions as 87 by 135 feet; its chief constructive material sandstone; height of tower, 130 feet; interior finish, quarter-sawed oak; style of exterior architecture, Romanesque. Since the court house was completed more than twenty-five years ago, numerous improvements have been made in its heating, lighting and sanitary conveniences. Among the late additions to its utilities as a public building are the pleasant rest room provided for women and girls and the G. A. R. headquarters furnished the few remaining veterans of the Civil war.

County Infirmary and Orphans' Asylum

The County Infirmary and Orphans' Asylum is located a few miles southeast of Bluffton, on the southwest quarter of section 23, Harrison Township. The original farm of 156 acres was purchased in 1864, and the main building of the Infirmary, a substantial brick structure, was completed in 1875 at a cost of about $16,000. Various improvements have been made, including the installation of a modern steam heating plant, electric light plant, individual baths, and toilet accommodations within doors. In 1900 the large barn was destroyed by fire and a new building erected soon after at a cost of $6,000. The County Infirmary has accommodations for about sixty inmates. For the past forty years the superintendents of the Wells County Infirmary have been as follows: Amos Warner, two years; Joseph Cobbin, two years; Amos Rowe, nine years; David Gottschalk, nine years; John Ditsler, twelve years; Adam Hesher, three years, and James Hesher (present incumbent), four years. The two superintendents last mentioned are father and son. It may be added to the account bearing on the present status of the Infirmary that the raising of live stock has been carried on with marked success for a number of years past. Last year Mr. Hesher sold 140 head of cattle from the Farm, for which the county realized over $6,000.

Roster of County Officials, 1837-1917

The auditors, treasurers, clerks, recorders, surveyors and sheriffs of Wells County commenced to serve in 1837, and have continued in

unbroken lines for the past eighty years. The county clerk has always been rather a dual official, as he has performed the duties attaching to strictly county matters and, in addition, those connected with the Circuit Court of Wells County. The first county clerk also acted as auditor, and for at least four years was the most important official connected with the county government.

Auditors—Bowen Hale, 1837-41; Lewis S. Grove, 1841-50; James Dailey, 1850-59; John McFadden, 1859-63; Theodore Horton, 1863-67; Samuel M. Dailey, 1867-71; Michael C. Blue, 1871-75; George E. Gardiner, 1875-79; Elmore Y. Sturgis, 1879-83; Naaman T. Miller, 1883-87; Charles M. Miller, 1887-91; William H. Ernest, 1891-95; George W. Studabaker, 1895-99; William A. Marsh, 1899-1903; Clement S. Brineman, January 1, 1904-08; Orin D. Garrett, 1908-12; L. A. Williamson, 1912-14; Clement T. Kain, appointed December, 1914, for unexpired term, ending December 31, 1915, and elected for term 1916-20.

Clerks—Bowen Hale, 1837-55; George McDowell, 1855-59; Thomas L. Wisner, 1859-67; James R. McCleery, 1867, died in office, April, 1874; William J. Craig, 1874-82; John H. Ormsby, 1882-90; Albert Oppenheim, 1890-94; Robert F. Cummins, 1894-98; James C. Hatfield, 1898-1902; Hugh D. Studabaker, 1903-07; Augustus N. Plessinger, 1907-11; Adalgo Waudel, 1911-15; Herman F. Lesh, 1915- —.

Treasurers—Adnah Hall, 1837-48; Henry Courtney, 1848-50; William H. Deam, 1850-55; John Wandle, 1855-59; Peter Studabaker, 1859-62; Elijah A. Horton, 1862-64; Jacob V. Geary, 1864-66; William H. Deam, 1866-70; John Ogden, 1870-74; Lemuel Bachelor, 1874-78; Lawson Popejoy, 1878-82; James P. Deam, 1882-86; John E. Sturgis, 1886-90; William Cover, 1890-94; Benjamin F. Kain, 1894-98; Eli C. Bierie, 1898-1900; Amos G. King, January 1, 1901-05; Edward Saurer, 1905-09; William J. Dustman, 1909-13; James A. McBride, 1913-17; Ervin Lesh, 1917- —.

Recorders—Bowen Hale, 1837-51; Wilson M. Bulger, 1851-59; Samuel M. Dailey, 1859-63; Wilson M. Bulger, 1863-71; James R. Bennett, 1871-79; David E. Bulger, 1879-82; E. B. McDowell, 1882-87; John C. Baumgartner, 1887-91; William F. Guyones, 1891-95; John F. Stine, 1895-99; John Miller, 1899-1903; John H. Crum, January 1, 1904-08; Josiah Feeser, 1908-12; John B. Kreigh, 1912-16; Daniel T. Brinneman, 1916- —.

Surveyors—John Casebeer, 1837; Sylvanus Church, ——- —; Samuel G. Upton, 1853; George P. Mann, 1853-57; Elijah A. Horton, 1857-62; James A. Gavin, 1862-67; Michael C. Blue, 1867-71; Finley H. Rhodes, 1871-73; James P. Hale, 1873-77; John E. Beil, 1877-83;

T. W. Barton, 1883-87; Gabriel T. Markley, 1887-90; William A. Kunkel, 1890-94; John H. Trostel, 1894-98; B. A. Batson, 1898-1902; Daniel O. North, January, 1903-07; H. B. Sark, 1907-11; Charles W. Decker, 1911-15; Thomas C. Guldin, 1915—.

Under a general state law, passed in 1881, the public ditches of the county were placed under the direct control of drainage commissioners, appointed by the Circuit Court, through which body said ditches are authorized to be established. Theretofore the ditches were constructed by petition in the Commissioners' Court, and were under the general supervision of the county surveyor. These matters are taken up more in detail by County Surveyor Guldin in his article on the "Artificial Drainage of the County."

Sheriffs—David Bennett, 1837; Isaac Covert, 1837-41; Lewis Linn, 1841-43; Isaac Covert, 1843-45; Lewis Linn, 1845-47; Isaac Covert, 1847-49; Amza White, 1849-53; Michael Miller, 1853-57; Evan H. Phillips, 1857-59; Michael Miller, 1859-61; Nathaniel DeHaven, 1861-65; Manuel Chalfant, 1865-67; Isaiah J. Covault, 1867-69; Manuel Chalfant, 1869-71; Isaiah J. Covault, 1871-73; William W. Wisell, 1873-77; James B. Plessinger, 1877-81; M. M. Justus, 1881-85; Henry Kirkwood, 1885-89; James T. Dailey, 1889-93; George W. Huffman, 1893-97; William Higgins, 1897-1901; James R. Johnston, January 1, 1902-06; William A. Lipkey, 1906-10; Freeman Carlisle, 1910-14; John A. Johnston, 1914-18.

Some Old-Time Office Holders

Besides the many old settlers noticed in the previous chapter, many will query what has become of the old-time office holders.

Amza White, elected sheriff in 1848, died many years ago. His widow and children long resided in Bluffton.

Joshua R. Randall, candidate for representative in 1848, lived on a farm six miles northeast of Bluffton, forty years thereafter.

James Bell, county commissioner, 1849-'51, was a station agent at Keystone in the late '80s.

James L. Warden, prosecuting attorney in 1851, afterward circuit and supreme judge, was an able and honorable jurist. He died at Fort Wayne, when he was judge of the Superior Court of Allen County.

Thomas L. Wisner, who was in office much of his life, lived in Bluffton as late as the '90s.

Ellison Covert and Joseph Gorrell resided at Ossian.

Nun McIntyre and Joseph A. Williams are not living.

James Fulton died in the early '80s.

William A. Deam lost a great deal of property in Wells County, but did well in Wichita, Kansas.

William Kirkwood, father of Henry Kirkwood (formerly sheriff), lived south of Bluffton, ten or twelve miles.

George P. Mann (surveyor), John Wandle, Sylvanus Church and Samuel Decker have been dead many years.

Lewis Prillaman moved to his farm three miles above Bluffton, where he resided many years.

Wilson M. Bulger, David Peppard, Nelson Kellogg and Michael Miller resided in Bluffton, retired from the activities of a business life.

David Truesdale lived five miles north of Bluffton.

James Dailey, father of Hon. Joseph S. Dailey, had a home northeast of Bluffton.

John R. Coffroth became a prominent lawyer in Lafayette, Indiana.

Early Schools and Teachers of the County

The first school in Wells County was taught by Jesse B. McGrew, in 1837, on the farm of Adam Miller, above Bluffton, on Six Mile Creek, in the south part of section 11, Harrison Township. Another school, one of the earliest, if not the second, was taught on a place adjoining the above, where David Powell's tannery afterward stood for so many years.

In 1841 a schoolhouse was built on the land of William Studabaker, north of Bluffton. Wonderful to relate, it had a real stove! The first teacher to grace this school was Charles Grimes, at from thirty to thirty-eight dollars per term of seventy-eight days, with board 'round. His near successors were Lewis Prillaman and Abraham Studabaker.

In 1843 a schoolhouse was erected on the land of Thomas W. Van Horn, about four miles above Bluffton, in which the teachers were Henry Prillaman, John H. Moore and Ellison Covert.

Of course, all these and other early schools were supported by private subscriptions, and their standard was largely determined by the intelligence and generosity of neighborhood citizens. Besides those mentioned, Charles F. Cruickshank, Absolom Brewster, Asa Coho, George C. Fellows, James Turner, W. P. Mann, Henry Atchison, James Ferguson and Ann Maria Fields wielded the birch and ruler, with milder forms of oral discipline. The last named taught a school in the rear of T. L. Wisner's residence, at Bluffton, and put her own case by saying that she occasionally "had to use Birch Tea in order to preserve the peace."

The first school commissioner, Judge W. H. Parmalee, was an energetic, efficient officer. He received $238.79 for school purposes, but how the money was obtained the records do not show.

Tendency of Late Years

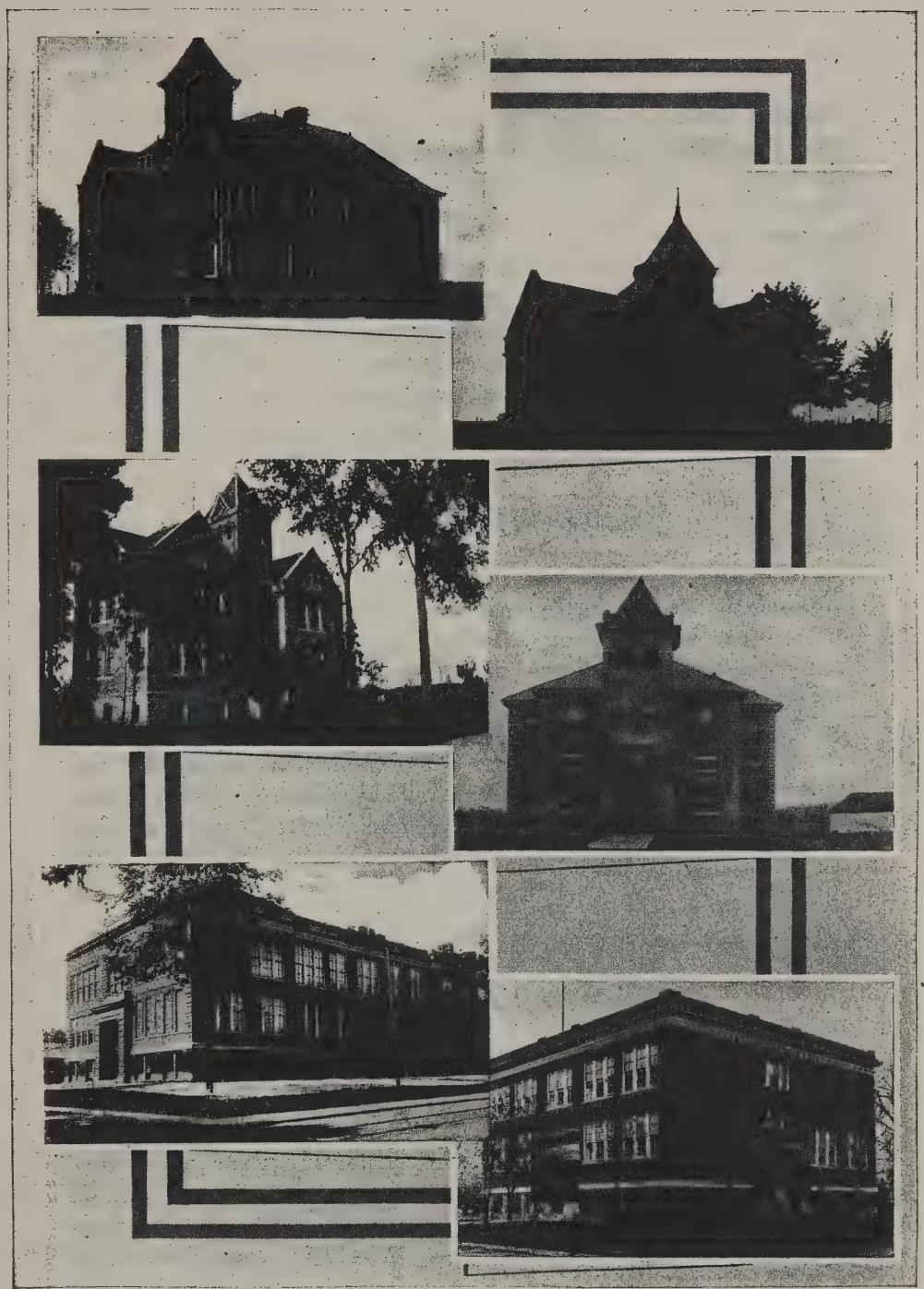
Of late years the county systems of schools, as well as the metropolitan boards of education, have made special and progressive efforts to give the pupils under their jurisdiction a practical training in those subjects upon which, in all probability, they should be best informed, in order to develop into useful members of the home communities. How the county superintendent of schools and his teachers co-operate with the county agent, representing the Federal Department of Agriculture, has already been described in detail.

Historical Development of the System

How the broad historic development of the county system has progressed since it was placed under a responsible superintendent, more than forty years ago, is thus set forth by Superintendent Huyette in his last report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which was transmitted to the Indiana General Assembly in January, 1917: "A school, which is claimed by some to be the first in the county, was taught by Jesse McGrew, in 1837, east of Bluffton, in a schoolhouse which stood on the Adam Miller farm, in Harrison Township. It was a log building, eleven by eighteen feet in size, with a clapboard roof, held on with weight poles. The seats were arranged in semi-circular form about the fire-place; the writing desks were of hewn slabs, pinned to the walls, and a row of backless benches in front of them for use of the more advanced pupils; this was the typical schoolhouse of the period.

"In the early days, the teachers were licensed by an officer called the school examiner, and there was no uniformity; sometimes a few questions, more or less remotely connected with schoolwork, were asked and the applicant granted a license; some examiners maintained a high standard of scholarship for the times, yet it was frequently the case that very crude scholarship passed all right before the examiners.

"In 1873 the law was changed, the office of county school superintendent was created and this officer took the place of the examiner. Since this law was passed, the following persons have held the office of county school superintendent: J. S. McCleery, John H.



GROUP OF WELLS COUNTY SCHOOLS

School Building, Petroleum
Public School, Keystone
Central School, Bluffton
School Building, Vera Cruz
Public School, Tocsin
High School, Liberty Center

Ormsby, Smith Goodin, S. S. Roth, elected in 1877; W. H. Ernst, elected in 1878; W. A. Luce, elected in 1887; S. A. Shoemaker, elected in February, 1891; W. H. Eichhorn, in June, 1891; R. W. Stine, in August, 1893; and the present incumbent, Arthur R. Huyette, elected in June, 1903.

"The old-fashioned round log schoolhouses were later replaced by hewn log or frame buildings; sometime later, the one-room buildings were built of brick; some oblong in shape, while others were of the L-shape, known as the 'Baker Plan' one-room schoolhouse, which afforded cloakrooms. At the present time, all schoolhouses in the county are built of brick, with the exception of one, which is of cement blocks.

The High Schools of the County

"The first high school in the county, outside of Bluffton, was established in Ossian; for a long time Bluffton and Ossian were the only places in the county offering high school work. About the year 1896, there was a revival of interest in high school work throughout the county; during this year graded high school buildings were built at Keystone and Liberty Center; in 1899, Murry and Petroleum erected high school buildings; in 1903, Craigsville remodeled a two-room building into a graded high school building; in 1904, a graded high school building was erected at Union Center, Union Township, to accommodate the pupils of her township seeking high school work. Tocsin, in Jefferson Township, erected a high school building in 1908; in 1911, the Petroleum building, in Nottingham Township, was remodeled, and several rooms added to its structure.

Uniform High School Course

"All of the above schools are under the direction of the township trustee, Bluffton having the only school board in the county. At first one, two, and three years of high school work was offered, as pupils were ready for the work; there was no uniformity in course of study or text books, and the terms of the high schools were six, six and one-half and seven months in length. In 1906, the county superintendent, A. R. Huyette, outlined a uniform high school course of study for the high schools of the county, and selected, with the aid of the high school principals, uniform texts to be used in the high schools throughout the county; this plan continued until the State

adopted uniform texts and established a uniform course of study for the high schools of the State.

"The County Board of Education took another advanced stand for education when they unanimously decided that the term in the high schools of the county should not be less than eight months.

"Bluffton City, Ossian, Petroleum, Liberty Center and Tocsin are now commissioned schools; Keystone is a certificated school; Union Center will add another teacher in the high school next year, increase her library, and apply to the State Board of Education for recognition.

Agriculture and Domestic Science Introduced

"Agriculture and Domestic Science were introduced into the schools in 1911, before the law was passed requiring those subjects to be taught in the public schools of Indiana.

"There is no complete consolidation of schools in the county, although several schools have been abandoned and the pupils transported to graded high schools.

"The first County Common School Commencement was held in the Grand Opera House, Bluffton, in 1907; this proved to be the greatest school event of the year, and has been continued; the one held May 26, 1916, was the tenth annual commencement, and the class numbered 232, the largest one ever graduating.

Most Modern School Buildings

"The most modern one-room district building in the county is No. 1, Jackson Township; it has a basement under the entire building, furnace, air pressure water system, flush toilet system, and flowing drinking fountains on the first floor. Three modern one-room buildings are now in the process of construction, to replace those that were completely wrecked by the windstorm during the early spring of 1916.

"The most modern graded high school building is at Liberty Center; this building was constructed in 1913-'14; Manual Training and Domestic Science rooms are fitted up in the basement. The building is lighted with electricity and fourteen electric hot plates are installed in the Domestic Science room. An air pressure tank furnishes water for the entire building; flowing drinking fountains are installed on each floor; a flowing drinking fountain is also installed in front of the building near the sidewalk for the use of the public. A direct indirect steam heating plant is used to heat the building.

"The school spirit in Wells County is excellent and the citizens generally take great pride in the growth of the public school system."

Teachers' Institutes

Teachers' Institutes have been held annually, or oftener, since about the year 1852, and since 1875 normals of six to ten weeks' duration have been held during the summer at Bluffton, conducted by the county superintendent.

Professor Allen's Sketch of the Country Schools

To Mr. Huyette's historical sketch may be added details contributed to the description of pioneer schools and teachers of the county outside of Bluffton, by Prof. P. A. Allen, a beloved veteran of education, identified with its progress throughout Wells County for many years. No one is better qualified to write or speak on such topics. He need not have apologized in the following strain: "The beginnings in the rural districts of the county are full of interest, but we are sorry to say that data for that part of the sketch is very meager. A comparatively few names were obtainable from the available sources of information, and we regret we are not able to enrich this chapter with a profusion of the incidents and happenings which must have belonged to that time.

"The first school in Lancaster Township, and probably the first in the county, was the one taught by A. B. Waugh, father of Representative A. A. Waugh. The building was made of round logs, and greased paper served for windows. It had in it the old-fashioned school furniture of that period, and must have been very primitive indeed. Some of those who attended school at that time were O. F. Sutton, Jacob Harvey, William Harvey, Tom Logan, Campbell Scott, William Metts, afterward a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church; Dr. J. I. Metts, and Mary Ellen Metts (now Mrs. T. A. Doan). It was a subscription school. One of the incidents of that first school was a lawsuit, which grew out of a whipping which was administered by Mr. Waugh to one of the big boys. It was inflicted by the use of a rule. The suit resulted in Mr. Waugh's favor, the court deciding that not only was the punishment deserved, but reasonable. Another incident of the first school, which illustrates the progress which has been made in temperance occurred at the close of the term. It was known to be the custom to treat the scholars on such occasions, and Mr. Waugh, in complying with this unwritten

custom, provided a washtub full of eggnog, and all present were invited to help themselves freely to the beverage. A natural result of the free use of this kind of refreshment was that several of the larger boys became too drunk to get home without assistance. The fact that this incident met with only a slight protest from a very few of the stricter ones shows how ideas have changed.

PROFESSOR P. A. ALLEN

"The second schoolhouse in Lancaster Township was built about ten years later, four miles east of Murray, on Allen Clark's land, not far from Souder's farm. A man from Ohio was employed to teach, but he encountered the conditions described in The 'Hoosier Schoolmaster,' and not having the grit and tact of Ralph Hartsock, was driven off by the larger boys before the school had progressed very

far. The plan of these boys was to combine whenever the teacher attempted to punish one of their number. After the Ohio man had been driven from the field, David Clark was employed, but he shared the same fate as his predecessor. His father, Allen Clark, was then employed, and he fared no better than his son. As a fourth effort in that term, Sutton Metts was engaged to teach the school out with the understanding that he must succeed or he would not get any money for his services. The third day it became necessary for him to punish one of the disturbers. At this juncture some of the other boys attempted to carry out the tactics which had proven so successful with the other teachers. But they met with a surprising and very effective defeat. Mr. Metts, determined to profit by the experience of his predecessors, had provided himself with a lot of short clubs, which he had hidden until needed. When the boys began to concentrate their forces, Mr. Metts had recourse to his supply of clubs, which he used with such rapidity and skill over the heads of his assailants that they were effectually knocked out in the first round and the rumpus settled in short order. Mr. Metts taught the term out, and it is said there was never any more trouble in that district afterward.

"The first school in Jefferson Township was taught by Isaac Hatfield, two miles northeast of Ossian. The second was in the Ogden neighborhood, southeast of Ossian. There were established a few years before the opening of any school at Ossian. The history of the schools of Jefferson Township is closely identified with the official career of Dr. J. I. Metts, who served as trustee in all nearly twenty years. He was elected in 1859 and served until 1878. A class of four members was graduated from the Ossian high school in the spring of 1881, which was the first class to be graduated in the county.

"One of the early schools in Jackson Township was called the Colbert school, and was in the north part of the township. In 1851 the teacher, who had been selected for the place, gave up the job, and James R. Bannett was chosen, but declined to take the position, modestly contending that he was too young for the place. He was then asked if he would assist, in case W. H. Parmelee, living near Bluffton, should be chosen to take charge of the school. Mr. Bennett's duties were to solve all difficult problems, write all the copies and take full charge in the absence of Mr. Parmelee. A year later the school at Dillman was built of logs, and it was regarded as the finest schoolhouse in the county at that time. J. R. Bennett and R. L. McFadden were among the number who helped to raise the building. Robert Alexander was the first teacher to have charge in this build-

ing. Among the scholars in that first Dillman School were R. L. McFadden, Martha McFadden, D. K. Elkins, Sarah Elkins and the families of William Duckwall and Jacob Banter. Among the prominent teachers in the earlier days of the township, were Eli Arnold, B. M. Elkins, Fanny Ricketts and Mr. Lockwood. It is remarked by one identified with the early days in Jackson Township that the prevailing idea was 'no lickin', no larnin',' and for that reason, the gad was held in high esteem by the teachers, and regarded with great fear by the scholars. This was, no doubt, true of every township in the county. The same authority states that the people of the township prided themselves on their good spelling, and it was the highest ambition of larger scholars to be able to master the old Webster's Elementary Spelling Book.

"An old resident of Nottingham Township states that Stanton Scott, father of Thomas E. Scott, was actively identified with the school interests at the beginning of that township. Beginning with 1849, he was trustee and treasurer until the close of 1853. Jason R. Blackledge was a trustee and clerk during that period. An old record shows that the first election for school officers of the township was held in 1849. The enumeration of school children taken in September of that year shows that there were 149 children of school age in the township, which was divided into nine school districts. The clerk received twenty-five cents for taking this first enumeration. The names of Gabriel Burgess, E. Harlan Phillips, James S. Williams, and others, appear as having been trustees. Martha Marmon was paid $1.25 for half an acre of ground, on which to built a schoolhouse at District No. 9, known as the Scott School.

"The first school in Union Township was erected in 1848 or 1849, and was built of round logs, puncheon floor, stick and mud chimney, roof of clapboards, held in place by weight poles. The seats were of linden or basswood from trees eight to ten inches in diameter, split in halves, with pegs in each end for supports. Such were the materials and furnishings of Zion's schoolhouse, or Old Zion, as it was called, that stood one mile south of Zanesville. Abraham Beaber, who lived three-fourths of a mile south, taught there during the winter of 1850. Nothing now remains to show where this once great institution of learning stood. Ormsby's School near the old Ormsby farm, was of the same class, as was Center School and College Corner. At the latter place the first school was during the winter of 1851-52, and was taught by a Mr. Hixon, a brother of John Hixon, the grandfather of Frank Hixon of this city (Bluffton). The schoolhouse in the south part of the township was built in the woods somewhere near

the present location of Jeremiah Roe's farm buildings. The late John Kain was largely instrumental in having it erected. He had a large family of boys and girls of school age, among them Rev. D. F. Kain and Frank Kain, of Bluffton. James Jennings, who went west during the Pike's Peak gold excitement, was the first teacher. He was a brother of Peter Jennings, still a resident of Union Township. E. J. Felts, who died in this city a few years ago, taught the second term at Kain's schoolhouse. Stephen D. Cartwright, who wielded the birch in the old log schoolhouse at Uniontown, is yet an honored resident of the township.

"The furniture of all the schools taught was usually about the same. The teacher occupied a split-bottomed chair at the point in the room opposite the door. In his left hand he held a book, pen or slate, as might be required, while in his right hand he held the emblem of his power—a water beech gad, from four to six feet long. First he called the little boys and girls, who came individually and stood by his knee while they said the a, b, c's. One book served all the boys, and one the girls, if there were two; if not, one served for all. Then came the first spelling class, second spelling class; first, second, third and fourth reading classes, in the order given. Scholars, while reciting, stood in line close to the wall opposite the teacher's seat. One or two books answered for half a dozen pupils. The teacher looked over the shoulders of one of the pupils, or, if he had a book of his own, he looked on and assisted in pronouncing the hard words. If some boy or girl came across a sum that he could not 'work,' the teacher was called upon at any time to 'do the sum,' and woe to him if he refused for any reason to comply. What was he paid the enormous salary of one dollar per day for, if not to do sums for the scholars?

"Before dismissing school, all the scholars stood in a row and spelled a prepared lesson. The teacher pronounced the words, and the scholar at one end of the row, called the head of the class, named the letters in their proper order and pronounced each syllable. If this one failed, then the next one attempted the task, and so on until the word was correctly spelled and pronounced. The successful speller went above the first one to miss, and if he got to the head of the class, and maintained that position until the end of the day's session, he was credited with a 'head mark,' and very up-to-date teachers gave prizes at the end of the term to the scholars who secured the most of these marks. There was often lively competition at the beginning of the term among a number of pupils, but later it narrowed down to two or three contestants, who actually competed for the prize, while the

other pupils arrayed themselves as friends of the one or the other of the leaders and aided or opposed them by means not always fair.

"The spelling school was the great social feature of the school. Log-rollings, raisings, corn-huskings and wood-choppings, were the social gatherings of the country, attended by young men and women and older persons, but it was at the spelling school that the small boy and girl were allowed to have sport, and felt themselves a real part of the procession. Every week the pupils clamored for a 'spellin'.' When the teacher after roll call in the evening, announced that if candles could be furnished a spelling school would be held on a certain night during the week, there was immediate excitement. 'We'll furnish one,' called out some representative of a family; and then there was a whispering between brothers and sisters, and it usually took all the resources of the district in that line to furnish the three or four candles necessary to dimly light the room, and the teacher had to hold one in hand to 'give out' by. The spelling school of those days is well described in 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster.' Pupils did their best to have the announcement made through their own and adjoining districts. 'The more the merrier' was their motto, while the teacher who had to manage the crowd in the little twenty by twenty-four school-room, took an opposite view. Aside from the fun to be derived from the spelling school, there was no little benefit. The rivalry between the different schools and the desire to be chosen among the first caused many a boy and girl to spend hours in their efforts to master all the words in the old Elementary Spelling Book.

"Another social and intellectual feature of many of the schools was the debating societies. These were participated in by the boys and young men, and often the patrons of the district. Embryo statesmen, with all the fervor of actual combat in congressional halls, debated such questions as these: 'Resolved, that the dog is of more use to man than the gun,' 'Resolved, that cattle are of greater use to mankind than the horse,' 'War is a greater evil than intemperance,' 'The Negro has greater reason to complain than the Indian.'

"About the year 1854 township libraries were established, which were kept at the homes of the trustees. As there were then three trustees in each township, when the books were divided among them they were so distributed that every boy who wished to debate could have access to them, and every volume was carefully searched for material with which to down the other fellows in the great debates.

"There were few church buildings in the country and religious meetings of all kinds were held in the schoolhouses. The protracted, or 'big meetings,' always conducted in the winter, were often con-

tinued for a period of six consecutive weeks, evening meetings only being held on Sundays. Thus they largely took the place of the spelling school and the debating society. Young people and old attended and, even if not interested in their spiritual welfare, they met their friends and enjoyed a social hour together.

"Up to the time of the Civil War few or no lady teachers were employed. It was often thought that 'school marms' could not govern the big boys. What led to the introduction of lady teachers at this time was the fact that the big boys had mostly gone to the army, and consequently were not in attendance as pupils and could not be employed as teachers. Teachers were a necessity, and this necessity was the school ma'am's opportunity. She was employed then, and has ever since held her position. One of the first to take command at College Corners was Miss Smith. The boys 'reckoned they could run her out afore three weeks.' They did not, however. The larger number of the scholars liked her, and obeyed her for that reason. Those that did not, found that she could lick with a stick just like a 'master.' She taught two or three terms at the same place and fully demonstrated that a school 'marm' could keep winter school.

"The Teachers' Institute was a very potent means of advancing both teachers and patrons. Many of those who taught in the township had attended the Academy at Roanoke, at which Professor Reefy, who later had charge of the Bluffton schools, was the head. He attended the early institutes, and his teaching and talks reached every home and had much to do with placing the schools of the township in the very front rank of Wells County's schools. Among the old-time teachers were the following named persons: Frank Hamilton, W. J. Beatty, John A. Walker, Daniel K. Shoup, William Shoup, J. K. Rinehart, John Ormsby, James C. Kain, Elijah Sink, Henry Mygrants and John L. Thomas. We must not fail to mention Noah Walker, who taught successfully in the early '50s."

Chester Township took a great stride in its educational interests in 1896, when its fine high school building was erected. A. R. Huyette, the present county superintendent, was principal for a number of years. In the same year, while W. C. Arnold was school trustee, Liberty Township built the imposing high school at the Center. The handsome Lancaster Township High School building at Murray was erected in 1899, under the direction of Trustee N. E. Stafford. Nottingham Township through the energy and good management of Samuel Gehrett, trustee, went and did likewise during that year, the building being erected near Petroleum.

Increase in Valuation of School Property in Thirty Years

The marked increase in the valuation of school property during the past thirty years is a noteworthy illustration of the progress of the county system of education in providing improved buildings and apparatus for the benefit of the pupils under its control. The figures which are available for the year 1886 include Bluffton in their scope. In the year mentioned, within the limits of Wells County, were fifty-one brick and fifty-seven frame schoolhouses, which, with furniture, apparatus and grounds, were valued at $105,185.

In 1917, not including the Bluffton school property, the valuation and number of schools (virtually all brick) for the various townships were as follows: Chester, $26,000, and 10 houses; Harrison, $12,350, 11 schools; Jackson, $30,000, 10 schools; Jefferson, $30,000, 11 schools; Lancaster, $27,000, 12 schools; Liberty, $39,000, 8 schools; Nottingham, $50,000, 12 schools; Rock Creek, $12,000, 9 schools; Union, $20,000, 8 schools. Total valuation of school property in the present county system, $246,350; number of schoolhouses, 91.

Enrollment of Pupils and Teachers Employed

The number of teachers employed and the enrollment in the elementary, or first eight grades, are as follows:

	Teachers	Enrollment
Chester	16	309
Harrison	11	282
Jackson	10	277
Jefferson	24	422
Lancaster	16	305
Liberty	20	321
Nottingham	19	360
Rock Creek	10	224
Union	15	300
Total	141	2,800

The high school enrollment in 1917 was as follows: Ossian, 94; Liberty Center, 82; Petroleum, 60; Union Center, 55; Tocsin, 29; Keystone, 28; Murray, 16; Craigville, 13. Total, 377.

The total enrollment in the grades and high schools is thus distributed: In the commissioned high schools at Keystone, Ossian,

Tocsin, Union Center, Liberty Center and Petroleum, 62 seniors; 279 eighth-grade pupils, of whom 128 are enrolled in the graded high schools and 151 in the one-room buildings; 280 seventh and eighth grade boys study agriculture and 304 girls in the same grades are in the sewing classes.

Schools of Nottingham Township

By Thomas E. Scott

The first school in Wells County was taught, as the earliest records show, by Jesse McGrew in the year 1837, in Harrison Township. It was like all the schools throughout the different townships up to 1849-50, a private or subscription school.

There is no record to show there was any school taught in Nottingham Township until the public schools were established in the first years mentioned.

The first settler in the township was Joseph Blacklege, in 1837. John Dawson, Isaac and Edward Haines, Wm. Nutter and some others came in 1838.

The township was organized January 4, 1841, and an election held about that time, showing fifteen voters, but for what purpose, there is no available record to show.

The movement to establish the public schools was in 1849, and the first schools were commenced in the spring of 1850.

The first election for school purposes was held in September, 1849, and some school officers elected, and in the same month an enumeration was taken showing the township was divided into districts pretty much as they are at the present time and that there were then nine districts, containing children of school age and were distributed as follows. District No. 1, 25; No. 2, 19; No. 3, 7; No. 4, 5; No. 5, 16; No. 6, 5; No. 7, 21; No. 8, 31 and No. 9, 20, making 149 to the township. This last district is now known as No. 12, and has always been popularly known as the "Scott School."

At the election last mentioned Stanton Scott was elected trustee-treasurer; Jason B. Blackledge, trustee-clerk; and they were continued till the fall of 1853, so that they conducted and did the larger part of the school business up to that time. However, in each of the school districts having a sufficient number of scholars to justify a school there was a district trustee elected, who was later known as district school-director. Some of the others that were actively connected with the school interests up to 1853, were Gabriel Burgess,

E. Harlin Philips, Samuel Hurt, James S. Williams, Samuel Watts, John Dawson, Henry King, John K. Reiff, Alonzo Lockwood, Abram Stahl, Stephen Proudy, James Green and others.

Not all the districts seemed to have schools the first year because of lack of sufficient funds to hire teachers, as the amounts were allotted somewhat according to the number of pupils enrolled.

It will be quite difficult to give the names of all the teachers, at first and their location, at which certain persons taught, but it can be stated that Ann Lupton taught No. 8, known as Nottingham, in 1850-51, and that Lydia C. Watts taught at No. 2 in 1850, and at the same place in 1852; and a Miss Wood taught at No. 2 in 1851. The surprise will be at the small pay the teachers received the first few years, ranging about fifty cents a day and "boarded" by the patrons, or as it was termed "boarded around." Some as low as one dollar a week and board. Some of the teachers, from the first up to 1853, besides those mentioned, were Elizabeth Hulbert, Holyfurnas Wood, Mary Watts, Dr. Sawyer, Samuel Hurst, Wm. Gray, Roland Sparks, and others. It can be stated that Mary Watts taught four summer terms in the township up to 1854. These were at the Harper School, and one at the Scott School in 1853. For these first schools her wages were first $20.00 and board, and the last $30.00 per term and board herself. This before she was 19 years of age. Altogether she taught 18 terms in Nottingham Township, besides other places.

Brief mention may be made of a few more incidents relative to the township affairs, and then the No. 9, or "Scott School" may be taken up and referred to more minutely, which will illustrate clearly in a general way what might be stated of most all the schools for the first few years.

There were no funds at first with which to build schoolhouses, and it was necessary for the patrons to volunteer and contribute their labor, which they did with few or no exceptions, going into the woods which surrounded the site on which the proposed building was to be erected, and cut the timber, haul in the logs, and erect the "old log schoolhouse." The few things that will be referred to as relating to the whole township, are as was stated previously, the first enumeration showed 149 pupils, and three years later, 168. That for taking of the enumeration the clerk was paid 25 cents, 37½ cents and 50 cents respectively. That the first tuition fund received in 1850, was $41.42 on January 1st, and on May 1st, $37.04, making a total of $78.46, an average of $8.71 5-9 to the district, but stated before, all the school districts did not have a sufficient number of pupils to justify having schools.

One might be led to think there would be no indifference or lack of interest in school affairs, after the "public" took up the educational interests of the commonwealth, but an incident or two will indicate differently. In 1851 an election was held the 30th day of August—Samuel Watts as inspector, Stanton Scott and John Dawson, judges and Jason R. Blackledge, clerk. That the electors present were Gabriel Burgess, Alonzo Lockwood, Judson Blackledge, John Dawson, Samuel Watts and Stanton Scott, and that of the six votes cast one candidate got three votes, another two, and another one vote.

The round log house at the "Scott School" was as indicated, built of timber in the manner referred to. The building was about 20x22 feet, cabled off, and roofed with clapboards held in place by "weight poles." The chimney was made of sticks and "mud," the floors of puncheons split from the timber, which, if it had been sawed and dressed, would have made elegant finishing for the best schoolhouse or residence of today.

The seats were made of linden, or bass wood saplings, eight to ten inches in diameter, split in halves and dressed with an ax and drawing knife, with wooden pegs in each end for supports. The building was erected on a half acre of ground at the northwest corner of section 32, in said township, bought of one Martha Marmon, of Logan County, Ohio, who was paid $1.25 for the plot, she making this price to "encourage the educational enterprise of the locality." It stood with the ends to the north and south, the door being in the south, and in the north end was a large open fire place which would take in about four foot wood. The back wall and jambs were built of clay, pounded in behind wooden supports, in moist condition, well saturated with salt to help form a glazing over the surface and give it durability. About three feet from the floor on each side a couple of logs were cut and removed almost the full length of the house, and in the spaces, two sashes to each opening were fitted for the glass, so they would slide past each other, to let in air, and these were the windows. The cracks between the logs were "chinked" and plastered over with clay mortar. For a writing desk for this house a black walnut "slab" or board about 3½ or 4 inches thick, three feet wide and about twelve feet long, that had been used formerly by one of the patrons of the new school for a "bench" to dress leather on, as he had been a tanner by trade. This bench was laid on two trestle benches, one under each end; can you realize what a superb writing desk this made as it was thus placed a little to one side of the center of the house, and that it was always a treat, a fair delight to be privileged to sit by it to study the lessons and write?

The first schools were all summer schools up to about 1856 or '57, when the terms were changed to winter terms. The teachers at this particular place were, in their rotation: Catherine Hunter, 1850; Lydia C. Watts, 1851; Susan Karker, 1852; Mary Watts, 1853, and probably again in 1854; Mary Cole taught in 1855, but on account of sickness, did not finish her school. In 1856 Meriam Griest taught. Then the schools were changed to winter terms, and Jacob Mann taught in the winter of 1857-58, S. J. S. Davis, 1858-59; Hiram Tewksbury in 1859-60; Mary Watts again in 1860-61, and Benj. Shinn in 1861-62. Elizabeth Scott taught next, or soon after.

About this time the need of a new and better house was being felt and agitating the patrons of the "Scott School," and owing to the

FORTY YEARS AGO AND TODAY

fact that a house had been built a while before one mile east of this one, there was a disposition to move the location farther west, and after considerable of wrangling it was decided to build the new house on the southwest corner of the Scott farm, one-fourth of a mile west in section 30, and in 1868 or '69, a new frame house was erected under the trusteeship of Thos. Aker, and schools were taught here by Joshua Scott, Amanda E. C. Scott, two terms; Wm. Lee, L. L. Howard, Estella Doster, and perhaps others, till about 1889 or '90, when the location was again changed back to the lot first secured of Mrs. Morman, and the present substantial and commodious brick building was erected under the supervision of Trustee Wm Higgins. Before leaving the local history of the "Scott School," which was No. 12, it will seem fair to state that four of Stanton Scott's children, two sons and two daughters began and finished the common school course here, and after further completing their equipment for the task, taught several terms, each, in the township, and one of them in Chester Township.

They were Nathan M., Elizabeth, Elma Jane and Joshua. The late Dr. H. Doster, of Poneto, also began and completed the common school course here before attending college, and taking his medical course at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Some of the "characteristics" of these schools were: First, that they were surrounded by dense forests, through which the pupils of the incoming and rising generation beat their way, and made their own paths and roads, as they chose, or as best they could, as up to about this time no regular roads had been laid out and opened up. Besides the dense brush and undergrowth in many places, the chief difficulties they had to encounter were logs and swamps, and often they were glad of the logs to help them across the swamps. For though the forests were practically full of beasts, birds and vermine, the children were often quite as interesting to them as they were to the children, and each enjoyed the exchange of glances and community of interests, one about as much as the other. And this was one of the "wheres," and will illustrate nearly all the others, that the children and youths of fifty and sixty years ago were taught their "A. B. C's.," and to spell out of the same old elementary spelling books—(Webster's); to write, and to read from that series of school readers—(McGuffey's), than which there never has probably been a better in the country in its helpful illustrations of emphasis and tone, and in the superior excellence of its literary character, up to the present time; and to solve their mathematical problems from old Ray's series of helps, which were plain and common-sense in its examples and rules as illustrative of the science, and the principles involved; and grammar, from Pine's series, where things were made plain with graduating rise from start to finish, etc.

With these surroundings, natural parks, which were full of life and energy of all kinds, those youths, who were measurably and necessarily free from care, inspired by nature's growing, blooming flowers of plant, grass, shrubs and trees, and by songs of birds, bees and insects, singing their own joyous, rollicking songs of childhood and youth, while they lived a life of joy and hopeful expectation; may it not well be asked: Are those of the present generation making better use of their time, energies, opportunities and privileges than did those of earlier times? If this can be answered in the affirmative, we may well quote the old axiom and almost trite saying: "The only value of bringing forward the past lies in its helping us to a better future." And so applied to these notes and sketches of earlier times may inspire to press hopefully forward and upward, and will close with the other axiom: "Whatever in the past will help to make us stronger, more loving, more humble and tender, that let us learn and remember."

CHAPTER XVIII

ALL KINDS OF ROADS

Bluffton-Fort Wayne Plank Road—Unrealized Railroad Projects—The Muncie Route—First Ties Laid in the County—Driving the First Spikes—John Studabaker, Railroad Father—Hugh Dougherty Describes the Building of the Road—Roads and Traffic in 1865—John Studabaker to the Front—Contract Let for Muncie Road—Mr. Dougherty in Charge of Construction—Collecting at the Point of the Gun—His Client Not Favored—A Railroad or Not a Railroad (?)—Financial Complications—Building of the Second Railroad—The "Clover Leaf," or Bust—The Chicago & Erie Line—The Traction Lines.

The necessity of building passable roads through Wells County was fully realized twenty years before a real start had been made in their actual construction. Wood was then plentiful, and gravel had not come into general use as road material. In fact, until the original railroad project which eventually materialized had been well under way, the substantial gravel road was a thing of the future.

Bluffton-Fort Wayne Plank Road

As early as 1848, in the second year of the Republican Bugle, of Bluffton, the first newspaper of the county, the local press noted that a movement was on foot for the laying of a plank road from the county seat to Fort Wayne. Naturally, the movement progressed, for that publication of January 6, 1849, gives an account of a public meeting held at the court house in Fort Wayne, December 16th previous, for the purpose of appointing delegates to attend the plank road convention at Bluffton on the 19th. Twelve delegates were appointed, but only the following appeared at the convention: Hugh McCulloch (afterward a member of President Johnson's cabinet), P. Hoagland, S. Edsall, P. P. Bailey, H. B. Reed, C. W. Aylsworth and S. C. Freeman. The mere attendance of these men at the convention was suffi-

cient proof of their zeal in the cause, for a trip from Fort Wayne to Bluffton those times, and especially at that season, was fraught with great difficulties. In some places the roads surpassed description. It was really amusing to see one of the horses walk on a pole and step on stumps, while another would be standing still with his head stuck into the mud up to his eyes, apparently meditating whether it were better to give up or make another effort to get out.

On arrival at Bluffton the delegates found some of the citizens in favor of a plank road to Fort Wayne, and some opposed, favoring a railroad instead; but the latter were readily convinced that a railroad was impracticable at that early day, and joined the others in the plank road enterprise. They combined their forces and pledged themselves to build ten miles of the road, and, if possible, to the county line. The road was actually planked from Bluffton to Fort Wayne between 1852 and 1856, except in some places it was graveled only, kept in repair for a number of years, toll paid on it, and then it was suffered to run down.

Unrealized Railroad Projects

As early as 1840 to 1850 railroad projects were talked of, various routes proposed, etc., but the people were too poor to build railways, and Eastern capital was busier with the main lines running east and west, north of Wells County.

The route for the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville line popularly known as the "Muncie Railroad," was surveyed through Wells County as early as 1852; but, before the work of construction actually commenced, the Civil war interrupted all railroad enterprises. In looking over the old files of the Bluffton newspapers, one constantly meets with the characteristic, universal wail of "O how long, how long shall we have to wait for those Eastern men to go ahead and build the railroad, as they have encouraged us to believe they would," interspersed with a setting forth of the advantages of a railroad "through this point" and to a certain other point beyond, with exhortations to the people to wake up and take an interest in it, and with news of some railroad meeting somewhere, or interview with some railroad magnate at some distant point, where some encouragement was contingently expressed.

The Muncie Route

In 1867-'68 Messrs. Hugh Dougherty, John Studabaker and others took the Muncie Route in hand and soon had the road built. They

first signed bonds to the amount of $100,000, then canvassed the county for support, finally securing the endorsement of the Board of County Commissioners, who made an appropriation of the above amount. The work of construction then went rapidly on to completion.

First Ties Laid in the County

As the track was being laid south from Fort Wayne, on approaching the county line, great excitement prevailed in Bluffton, and a pleasant strife was indulged in for being the first to lay a tie within the limits of Wells County.

On Tuesday, October 12, 1869, a great procession, with a band of music, cannon, etc., went with wagons to the point, where a dinner was enjoyed, etc., and when the critical moment arrived, Hon. Newton Burwell and J. Gerry Smith (the Banner editor) carried a tie to the county line, or a little south of it as they thought, and dropped it in place. Next came W. B. Wolfe and J. J. Todd with a tie and laid it, claiming that Burwell & Smith's tie was not far enough south to be in Wells County. Many others also laid ties, continuing for several rods, amid music and cheers and roaring of cannon indescribable.

Driving the First Spikes

By previous agreement, the honor of driving the first two spikes was conferred upon Colonel Hall, of Bluffton, and James Metts, of Murray. This occurred at half past three o'clock in the afternoon. Similar scenes occurred November 10th following, as the track reached Bluffton, at 11:30 A. M., where the first spikes were driven by John Studabaker, then the oldest citizen, and by William Bluffton Miller, the eldest male child born in this town. Lively addresses were delivered by Levi Mock (then mayor), J. J. Todd, T. W. Wilson and others, a free dinner was given in Studabaker's new warehouse, silver cornet bands played, everybody shouted, and the "Little Giant" cannon fairly split its throat in endeavoring to overtop the noise of the crowd. Indeed, it blew itself all to pieces, knocking even the wheels of its carriage to splinters, and yet, providentially, no one was killed, and but one or two injured!

It should be stated that John Studabaker, above referred to, was for a time director of this road, and W. W. Worthington, of Fort Wayne, was superintendent for many years. Mr. Dougherty continued to aid the road on its southward extension, until connection was made at Connersville with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Road.

For a time the name was the "Fort Wayne, Muncie & Cincinnati Railroad," and subsequently the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad.

John Studabaker, Railroad Father

Doubtless, John Studabaker and his nephew, Hugh Dougherty, were the pillars which braced up the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad so sturdily that it was able to stand alone. Mr. Studabaker had been retired for twelve years as a merchant and had become the leading banker of Bluffton, and about the time the railroad project was most critical he discontinued the First National Bank, of which he had been president for five years, and associated himself with his brother, Peter, and Mr. Dougherty, in a reorganized institution which became The Studabaker Bank. Even before Mr. Dougherty appeared upon the scene of transportation development in Wells County, Mr. Studabaker had been much interested in the Bluffton & Fort Wayne Plank Road, and in 1851 was identified with the proposed Fort Wayne & Southern Railroad, which rested for a term of years after having been graded through the county. It was, in fact, the father of the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad.

Hugh Dougherty Describes the Building of the Road

Mr. Dougherty had barely passed his majority when, in 1865, after having enjoyed some rather exciting Civil war experiences in Kentucky and Tennessee, he joined his uncle in his grain and banking enterprises at Bluffton. He was therefore still very young when the railroad was put through. He thus describes those times and the special enterprise with which John Studabaker, Louis Worthington, of Cincinnati, himself and others were identified: "The writer's personal knowledge of Wells County dates back only to November 5, 1865, at which time there was not a gravel road, railroad, nor any of the important ditches constructed. Bluffton being the county seat, was the largest town, having less than eight hundred inhabitants. The most important improvements in Bluffton at that time were three brick business blocks. The best and most imposing was built by John Studabaker, which included the east half of the Leader store and the building adjoining those on the north, and one brick building where George F. McFarren's store now stands, which was torn away some years ago to give way to the more spacious building which he now occupies; the third one is now occupied by Cline & Zimmer's hardware

store and was built by Drs. Melsheimer and McCleery. There were scarcely any sidewalks and they were made of plank; there were no crossings, so that pedestrians had little use for shoe blacking, as they would not be able to cross the street after their shoes were polished without losing their lustre. The school houses of the town would scarcely accommodate one hundred students and the seating capacity of all the churches could not be more than three hundred. The court house, jail and other public improvements were on the same line; the private homes were no more pretentious—and still the town was ahead of the country at that time.

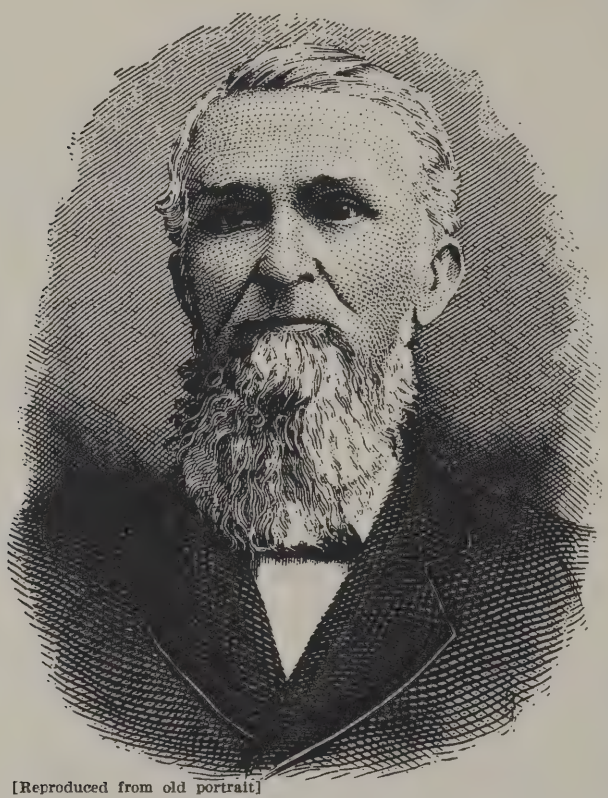
Roads and Traffic in 1865

"There were no gravel roads, the farmers doing well during the muddy season if they averaged getting to town twice a month. On this account there was very little reading matter found in the country homes. Dr. B. F. Cummins, who had a large country practice, once said to me that he was always prepared with paper in which to do up his powders, as he could not rely on the people to furnish it. For at least three months, and sometimes as much as five months in the year, it was impossible for farmers to get to town with their wagons and, in order to get over the corduroy roads and through the mud, they were frequently to be found with a yoke of oxen or two horses hitched to the front wheels of a wagon, with a load of but two bags of wheat, the toilsome trip being necessary for the purpose of having the latter ground into flour for family use. The main outlet for trade was Fort Wayne. There had been, several years previous, a plank road built from Fort Wayne to Bluffton, but the planks had become worn out and in many places had broken through, which made it impossible for heavy freight to be hauled in a wagon, so when snow came in the winter with good sleighing all the teamsters in and about the town were employed to haul the produce and provisions to market. A hack made the trip one way each day to Fort Wayne and return. It usually had four horses, though in the muddy season of the year they were unable to pull the hack and its passengers, so that very often the latter were compelled to get out and walk a good portion of the way. The writer paid two dollars for his hack fare from Fort Wayne to Bluffton on his first trip here, which reduced his total wealth to less than four dollars. After leaving Fort Wayne and driving about seven miles, we found the road so bad that the passengers found it more comfortable and speedy to walk. We would not have complained of this, if we had not been compelled to assist in prying out the hack on several occasions.

This trip was made in April for the purpose of taking a view of the country, but the writer soon decided not to remain; later, however, in the following autumn he returned to stay.

John Studabaker to the Front

"This condition of roads and transportation improved but little until the spring of 1868, when John Studabaker received a letter from



[Reproduced from old portrait]

John Studabaker

D. T. Haines, of Muncie, saying there was a chance to get a railroad from Fort Wayne to Muncie; and thereupon Mr. Studabaker promptly joined Mr. Haines and Louis Worthington, of Cincinnati, at the Rockhill House, Fort Wayne, where a number of gentlemen from that city met them, and at a conference it was proposed to construct the road, if Wells County would contribute $100,000 to the enterprise and if

responsible private citizens would guarantee this amount by a bond to be executed by them therefor. Public sentiment was strong enough to have voted a donation to this amount by the county, but there was no statute authorizing the vote or an appropriation for railroad purposes, so there was no other way to do but to create a sentiment strong enough to induce the county commissioners to appropriate the money without regard to existing laws. With that indomitable will and energy which have made John Studabaker's business life such a success, he proposed that the bond should be signed by four hundred citizens, all real estate owners, he first putting his name to the bond. Then a canvass was made of the county, meetings held and speeches made, until the four hundred freeholders' names were secured. Immediately following this, Mr. Studabaker was made a director of the railroad.

Contract Let for Muncie Road

"The contract was let to Byrd, Sturgis & Ney, of Fort Wayne, and the work was commenced and progressed for three months. The desire on the part of the people of Bluffton to have the road completed at an early date caused frequent inquiries to be made as to progress, when it was found that the contractors were not paying their hands, nor for the material, but that each member of the firm had received the pay for the monthly estimate and kept the money. The writer was sent by Mr. Studabaker to see what could be done to hurry the work along, when he accidentally overheard a conversation that divulged the fact that the Junction Railroad, of which Louis Worthington was the president and which was supposed to be furnishing the money to build our road, was in financial trouble. When this was reported to Mr. Studabaker he called Mr. Worthington, the president of the road, and a number of directors, to Fort Wayne, and at that conference it was decided to take the work away from the contractors and put it in the hands of a receiver; and if any profits were made they were to go to the contractors.

Mr. Dougherty in Charge of Construction

"A number of citizens were discussed as to who should take charge of the work and put it through with as much haste as possible, when Mr. Studabaker proposed the writer who was then twenty-four years old. Some objections were made on account of his age, but, with Mr. Studabaker's keen foresight, he was determined to have control of the con-

struction so that it might be put through as rapidly as possible and before any failure might occur with the Junction Railroad. So he proposed that the receiver should give a $100,000 bond, which was promptly given by Mr. Studabaker signing the bond, with Jesse R. Williams of Fort Wayne and other gentlemen. He brought it to Bluffton for the signature of the principal, and on the next day the writer took charge of the enterprise, hiring all labor, buying the material and securing the right-of-way.

Collecting at the Point of His Gun

"Among the first men hired to hew ties was Augustus N. Martin, who afterward was elected reporter of the Supreme Court and was also representative in Congress for three times from this district. There was much annoyance in getting the right-of-way, because of many unfulfilled promises made by the men who undertook to build this railroad years prior to this time. One of the instances that now comes to our mind occurred on the farm of George F. Burgan, through which the road ran a mile north of Bluffton. He was very agreeable as to the question of amount, and we agreed with him as to what he was to have, and told him to let the men go to work and we would be out and pay him next day. This conversation was in the yard, and he immediately stepped into the house, took down his rifle and said: 'You will pay me now, or the first man that steps on my land will be shot.' So we were compelled to return to Bluffton at once and obtain the money to pay him, for the men were there ready to go to work. From that time on, the road had no better friend than Mr. Burgan.

His Client Not Favored

"We had several lawsuits for right-of-way, in which we found David Colerick, of Fort Wayne, a very able lawyer, always on the opposite side. After we had the right-of-way through the farms, Colerick came to us and asked that there might be a cattle-guard put in so that a crossing could be made for a client of his, that the latter might drive his stock from one side of the farm to the other. We said to him, 'Mr. Colerick, we do not consider you a friend of the road; therefore, do not believe we can grant your request in behalf of your client.' He yelled out, at the top of his voice, 'Friend! I am no man's friend, nor the road's either. I never had but one friend—myself—and he d——d near ruined me.' His client did not get the crossing.

A Railroad, or Not a Railroad (?)

"The intimation we had that the Junction Railroad and Louis Worthington, the president, were in financial straits, caused great fears that the road never could be completed for lack of money. So it was agreed that the Junction Railroad would secure the iron, and we would do the work, and furnish the ties and bridges to complete the line to Bluffton, and hold the $100,000 citizens' bond as security for what money we had advanced and would advance, until the road should be completed to Bluffton. The condition of the bond was such that the $100,000 would be due whenever a train of cars would have run over the road from the City of Fort Wayne into the Town of Bluffton, where Market Street would cross the railroad. This made it extremely important that the road should be completed to Market Street, Bluffton, before November 30, 1869.

"As the time drew near for the completion of the road, there had been a large number of men and teams put on the grade and in the woods, making ties and getting out timber, and the last month we had three hundred names on the pay roll, which required over $30,000. On November 10, 1869, twenty days before the time was up, we had run a train from Fort Wayne to Market Street, Bluffton, which made the citizens' bond binding and worth $100,000. Then came the great jollification, large numbers of people coming in from all parts of the county with well-filled baskets.

"Up to this time there had been but one engine on the road, it being under the care of the writer, and the contractors, Byrd, Sturgis & Ney, refusing to surrender the possession of the road to the Junction Railroad until they were settled with for their profits. The Junction Railroad bribed the fireman to run away with the engine. While the engineer was temporarily off his engine at Fort Wayne, the fireman cut loose and started it down the Pennsylvania track to Lima, with all speed possible. This created great excitement at Bluffton, and the question then arose in the minds of the wiseacres whether, from a legal stand-point, we had a railroad or not; and it was a mooted question as to whether the $100,000 citizens' bond could be collected; but it was only a few days until a train of cars was placed on the road.

Financial Complications

"While Mr. Studabaker and the writer were delighted to have completed the road in time to leave them secure for what had been advanced, yet there was great trouble ahead. About $50,000 of the

money which had been appropriated by the county commissioners to the railroad had been paid in by tax payers to the county treasurer, he having deposited it in our bank. We, in turn, deposited it in the Central National Bank of Cincinnati; but when we made the last payment to the laborers and for the material, and our bank undertook to draw the money from the Central National Bank of Cincinnati, we were told that Louis Worthington had already drawn the money, claiming it due them as soon as the railroad reached Market Street, Bluffton. After spending two days making every effort to get them to give up the money peaceably, we employed lawyers with the intention of forcing them to pay us the money, for the reason that we had never given the Central National Bank any authority to pay Mr. Worthington the money, and if they had advanced it to him on his word they must rely on that for their pay. This settled one-half of the citizens' bond.

"The other half was settled so far as it could be done by the county commissioners, who ordered the county auditor to issue county orders covering the other $50,000, which was to be paid out of money as soon as collected for that purpose. The county commissioners appointed Mr. John Studabaker trustee to take charge of these county orders, but Hon. Newton Burwell, who had just held a term in the lower house of the Legislature and was quite active in politics, raised an objection to Mr. Studabaker being made trustee because of his being a republican. He had little trouble in convincing the county commissioners that Mr. Studabaker could not be trusted with these county orders on account of his politics, this being made especially easy because of there having been quite a contest over Manuel Popejoy, who was nominated as one of the commissioners on the democratic ticket. However, when the committee appointed by the four hundred on the citizens' bond called on Mr. Popejoy and asked what he would do in regard to pledging himself to appropriate the money for the railroad, his reply was, 'If the law warrants such an appropriation and I am elected, I will vote for it.' The signers of the bond knew there was no law authorizing a levy for railroad purposes; so they set about to defeat him, and did so by electing Louis Prilliman, a republican. Thus Mr. Burwell's objection to Mr. Studabaker on account of his politics was accepted by the commissioners as being sufficient to remove him, and it was proposed that the writer, whose politics was regular, be put in his place, and he was appointed.

"This only increased trouble for the writer, as the county orders were then placed in his hands and he started for Cincinnati to exchange them for the citizens' bond. He found it in the hands of a pork-packer named Joseph Rawson, who had advanced Mr. Worthing-

ton the money on the last half of the bond, this being the money that paid for the railroad iron. Although we offered to sell them at ninety cents on the dollar, they had no attraction for Mr. Rawson and he promptly declined to take anything but cash. So we returned from Cincinnati with a heavy heart, feeling it would be from one to two years at least before the orders could be paid. The citizens' bond was now due, as the railroad had already reached Market Street, Bluffton. When we reached Bluffton it was late at night, and we found Amos

Scene from Erie Bridge, Bluffton

Townsend walking up and down the street waiting for us. He said he had word that the taxpayers in the northern part of the county would enjoin us from disposing of the orders, if they were able to procure legal service on us.

"We called on Mr. Studabaker and decided there was only one thing for us to do, and that was for us to get out of the reach of the officers and make some disposition of the orders. We concluded it was not safe to wait for the train the next morning and, after some deliberation, hitched up and went to Fort Wayne in a private rig. If we were unable to sell the orders in Fort Wayne, we must keep on

going, even to New York if necessary, until they were disposed of. We reached Fort Wayne a little before daylight. The writer, having traveled several nights, and being much worried, was directed to go to bed until called by Mr. Studabaker. The next morning, about nine o'clock, we were directed to go to the First National Bank of Fort Wayne, of which J. D. Nuttman was president, and to take whatever paper he offered in exchange for the orders, but we were to go through the form of making a sale by first offering at par, and when he offered ninety cents to agree to take it. We went through the performance and Mr. Nuttman handed over a paper together with two letters, one written to the auditor and the other to the treasurer of Wells County.

"As we were so nearly exhausted, Mr. Studabaker sent us home on the train and he drove back. On our way home we opened the papers and found a certificate of deposit from Nuttman calling for the amount of the face of the orders, less ten per cent to be paid when the orders were paid. When we got home we delivered one letter to W. H. Deam, treasurer, and one to S. M. Dailey, auditor. They opened the letters, which said that the First National Bank of Fort Wayne had bought the orders and would expect payment for them as soon as the money could be collected. Mr. Dailey, the auditor, in a very excited way, began to announce to everyone he met that the orders were sold and the money was in the Exchange Bank of John Studabaker & Company, ready to pay off the citizens' bond; all of which was glad news to everyone who had signed the bond. But this was but the beginning of our troubles."

Building of the Second Railroad

It would be unprofitable and of little general interest to follow the many involved details which were finally untangled and the citizens' bond paid off in full; thus clearing off all the obligations covering the construction of the first railroad to Bluffton and penetrating Wells County. Continuing, Mr. Dougherty says: "The building of the second road, running east and west through Bluffton, had been agitated from time to time for a number of years. At times a line was proposed from Lima to Logansville, at other times from Van Wert in a southwesterly direction and thence west, through Crawfordsville; but finally the narrow-gauge fever struck the country, and Joe Boehmr and Doctor Evans, of Delphos, Ohio, came along and proposed to build a road from that point through Bluffton west. At this time, townships were authorized to vote aid, which was done by Harrison, Lancaster and Liberty townships. James Crosbie and the writer

were given the contract to build the road from Bluffton to Warren. The iron covering that point of the road was to be furnished by the company. The grade was constructed and the iron furnished, but before it was delivered it was necessary to have the officers of the company sign a note covering $7,000 for the iron. The note was signed by Joseph Boehmr, Doctor Evans, W. J. Craig and the writer. Mr. Crosbie and the writer were given notes covering their contract, executed by the citizens of Warren and payable when the road was completed to that place. These were paid promptly, but the $7,000 was unprovided for, and after considerable manipulation the road was sold and the $7,000 paid by the succeeding company, so that Bluffton had the second railroad. From this small start it has since been converted into a standard gauge, with first-class day coaches and sleepers and with through trains from Toledo to St. Louis."

As intimated, an east-and-west line of railroad had ever been thought to be the greatest desideratum in respect to thoroughfares. Accordingly, a movement was set on foot, immediately after the completion of the Muncie Railroad, for the building a narrow-gauge railroad running from Toledo to some western metropolis, through Wells County, under the impression that such a road could be more cheaply built, and more cheaply operated after it was built. The long-delaying, soul-sickening hide-and-seek, now-you-see-it and now-you-don't performances of various supposed capitalists, characterized the early history of this line to an unusual extent. The numerous chameleon changes and skillful prestidigitations of the various "companies," building or proposing to build the various links between Toledo and the great West, generally are too tedious to relate here, and, in fact, uncalled for. Even the names of the routes are too numerous to catalogue, the most prominent of which have been the "Toledo, Cincinnati & St. Louis" and the "Narrow-Gauge Railroad."

The "Clover Leaf," or "Bust"

May we be pardoned for relating, in this connection, what took place in a Bluffton Sunday school, illustrating the long and intensely felt desire of the citizens to have this line of road hurried up? It is related that a Sunday school teacher had a boy in her class who had not failed in his penny contribution for more than a year; and when he was found empty-handed one Sunday, his teacher observed, "Why, Johnny, did you forget your penny today?" "No, Ma'am," he humbly replied, "but father says the narrow gauge railroad will do this town more good than any fourteen Sunday schools; and I am

Looking South from Clover Leaf Bridge, Bluffton

going to chuck my coppers into that enterprise for the next few weeks." "Won't the heathen miss your pennies?" she asked. "I suppose they will; but we've got to come right down for this road or this town is busted."

To condense the history of Wells County's connection with this road into a few lines, let it be sufficient to repeat that Messrs. Hugh Dougherty, James Crosby, W. J. Craig, clerk of the Wells County Court at that time, and others of more distant points took hold of the enterprise, and, under the new law enabling townships to vote aid or take stock, raised the money on their individual credit, and soon built the road from the state line to Warren, the first train reaching Bluffton in August, 1879.

The new Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad was adopted by the company in 1886 and it was determined to widen the track to the standard gauge, run through trains to Kansas City, and bring the whole line up to first-class condition, which was eventually done under the name Toledo, St. Louis & Western (Clover Leaf).

The Chicago & Erie Line

The Chicago & Atlantic line was proposed about 1872, and the following year Wells County, by a majority of 247, voted to aid in its construction. It was pushed through the northern part of Adams County striking Decatur; also through the northern sections of Wells County, missing Bluffton by about six miles. Through trains commenced to run in July, 1883; and the forerunner of the Chicago & Erie line had been placed on the map.

The Traction Lines

Besides the three lines of railroad mentioned a number of traction roads accommodate the people of Wells County. The Fort Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction Company operates a section of its north and south line through the county, taking in Ossian, Kingsland, Bluffton, Poneto and Keystone; the Marion & Bluffton Traction line branches out toward the southwest, Liberty Center being its chief station in Wells County, and the Bluffton, Geneva & Celina line extends toward the southeast, the cars making regular stops at Vera Cruz in Wells County. In November, 1917, the line last named, which had been for some time in the hands of a receiver was sold at auction

to Thomas Flynn for the sum of $118,000. Mr. Flynn already owned four-fifths of the stock of the road, which had been built at a cost of $450,000.

It is estimated that there are within the limits of Wells County over eighty miles of steam railroads and forty-three miles of electric lines.

CHAPTER XIX

LEGAL AND MEDICAL MATTERS

Before the Circuit Court Was—Circuit Court Organized—A Discouraging First Suit—First Indictments Presented—David Kilgore Succeeds Judge Ewing—Prominent Citizens Indicted for Betting—First Divorce Suit—First Resident Lawyer—First Probate Entry—Judge James W. Borden—David H. Colerick—John W. Dawson—First Conviction of a Felon—Last Associate Judge—James L. Worden—Old-Time Speedy Justice—James F. McDowell and George S. Brown—The Murphy-Freeman Trial—Judge Edwin R. Wilson—Wholesale Divorce Business—Court Changes, 1865-84—Crimes Against Life—The Court of Common Pleas—Wells County Bar in 1887—The Bench and Bar Since 1885—The Old Country Doctor—Doctor Melsheimer's Description—How It Was Thirty Years Ago—Pioneer Physicians and Early Epidemics—The Wells County Medical Society.

Matters connected with the professions of the law and medicine are especially personal in their nature, and for that reason of unusual interest. The items concerning the legal profession are strung upon the framework of the bench, the organization and changes in the various courts forming a substantial groundwork for individual sketches of judges and lawyers. As to the physicians and surgeons, the Wells County Medical Society is the only organized body around which they may be grouped, and they were practicing their scientific, humane and human arts long before they were formally associated. In many a community, in the old trying times, it was a friendly and a Christian rivalry for preeminence between the country doctor and the parson, the comparative preponderance of affection engendered depending largely on individual traits of warm-heartedness and charity.

Before the Circuit Court Was

Previous to the organization of the Circuit Court of Wells County, its citizens were obliged to call upon the local 'squire for assistance.

On September 2, 1837, Benjamin Brown tried the first case as a justice of the peace of Wells County. It was styled The State of Indiana versus Simon Miller, charged with assault and battery against the person of Elam Hooker. The defendant was found guilty and fined $1, for the benefit of the seminary fund of Wells County.

The second law suit before a justice occurred in 1837, when Thomas W. Van Horn was called upon to decide which of two traps caught the wolf.

Circuit Court Organized

The first term of the Circuit Court of Wells County convened at the residence of Robert C. Bennett, where Bluffton is now situated, in October, 1837, with the following officers: Charles W. Ewing, judge; John Swett and James R. Greer, associate judges; Bowen Hale, clerk; Isaac Covert, sheriff, and Thomas Johnson, prosecuting attorney. The first court entry was made on the 19th of the month named.

The first grand jury consisted of Abraham McDowell, James Wright, James Cobbum, David Bennett, Christopher Miller, William Ray, William P. Davis, Henry Mace, Jeremiah Masterson, Nathaniel Batson, Isaac Dewitt, James Harvey, Isaac Wright, Isaac Lewellyn, Joseph Jones and Buell Baldwin, and petit jurors, Joseph Sparks, John McCullick, Noah Tobey, John Seek, Newton Putnam, Allen Norcross, Andrew Brown, John Higgins, John Casebeer, Goldsmith Baldwin, Samuel Wallace, Conklin Masterson, Henry Miller, Henry Myers, Daniel Miller, John C. Whitman, James Jarrett, David Snyder, Mason Powell, William Foncannon, Samuel Myers, Adam Miller, John Swett and James R. Greer, all of whom but Newton Putnam are dead.

A Discouraging First Suit

The first lawsuit in the Circuit Court was in 1838, when Andrew Ferguson was tried for assault and battery upon the person of John Mace. David Bennett prosecuted the case vigorously and Moses Jenkinson, subsequently of Fort Wayne, defended. Mr. Jenkinson had walked all the way from Geneva, Southern Adams County, to defend his client, thereby proving conclusively that he needed his professional fees; but the culprit learned that he was not licensed to practice and refused to pay him for his services. So poor Jenkinson went footing it back through the mud to his Geneva home, a rather dejected victim of ingratitude.

First Indictments Presented

The grand jurors previous to the April term, 1839, failed to present any one for crime, but at this term Jehu T. Elliott, of New Castle, Indiana, afterward supreme judge, appeared as prosecuting attorney, and the first indictments in the county were then found and presented, and the court made the following entry in relation thereto, which will be found on page 21, Minute Book "A": "Ordered by the court that in all bills of indictment found at the present term of this court for assaults and batteries, betting, and selling and giving spirits to Indians, the defendants be required to enter into recognizance in the sum of $25 each and security in a like sum, and in all indictments for grand larceny and for suffering gaming in grocery or tavern the defendants be required to enter into recognizance in the sum of $100 each with security in a like sum."

David Kilgore Succeeds Judge Ewing

At the September term, 1839, Judge Ewing was succeeded on the bench by Hon. David Kilgore, of Muncie, afterward speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives and subsequently for two terms a member of Congress from the "Old Burnt District."

At this term, among others, the famous Moses Jenkinson, Judge Jeremiah Smith, of Winchester, and Judge Jacob B. Julian, later of Indianapolis, were admitted to practice in the Circuit Court.

Prominent Citizens Indicted for Betting

The first criminal proceeding tried was against Associate Judge James R. Greer, who entered a plea of guilty to a charge of betting and was fined $1. It seems that the judges in those days dealt out justice impartially and in proof of this made one of their own number the first victim of the majesty of the law. At this term John Brownlee, of Grant County, afterward a leading member of the Marion Bar, was the prosecuting attorney. The criminal docket contained fifty-two causes, of which forty-five were for betting, and most of the prominent citizens of the county were placed under indictment.

At the March term, 1840, the late Jeremiah Smith appeared as prosecuting attorney.

First Divorce Suit

At the October term, 1840, the first divorce petition in the county was filled. Prior to that event domestic bliss and felicity seem to have reigned supreme.

First Resident Lawyer

At the April term, 1841, Samuel Ogden succeeded John Swett as associate judge, and at this term John P. Greer, who spent the last years of his long life at Topeka, Kansas, became the first resident member of the Wells County Bar and was one of its leading lights until his removal from the state in 1857.

First Probate Entry

The first entry in the probate docket of the county was made by William Wallace, probate judge, on November 10, 1841, ordering a writ of habeas corpus for the body of one Martin Perry.

Judge James W. Borden

At the March term, 1842, James W. Borden, of Fort Wayne, succeeded to the judgeship and Lucien P. Ferry of the same place appeared as prosecuting attorney. Judge Borden, though only a moderate lawyer, was a man of fine physical proportions, an excellent conversationalist, and spent the subsequent years of his life in office, having been a member of the Constitutional Convention, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, minister to the Sandwich Islands under Buchanan, again common pleas judge, and he died in the harness as judge of the Allen Criminal Court about 1881. The court as then constituted had an equitable but arbitrary way of apportioning costs, and at this term, in the case of "Andy" Ferguson v. Almon Case, where the jury found for the plaintiff in the sum of $2, the court ordered "that each party pay one-half the costs."

At the September term, 1842, the name of Horatio M. Slack, the second resident attorney of Bluffton, appears of record. At this term William H. Coombs of Fort Wayne appeared as prosecuting attorney. After having practiced at that city for more than one-half century, he rounded off his career by a brief service on the Supreme Bench, and retired from active practice at a venerable age. During his term the judge and ex-Prosecuting Attorney Ferry were jointly indicted on the novel charge of "aiding in the escape of a prisoner."

David L. Colerick

At the March term, 1843, the venerable David H. Colerick appeared as prosecuting attorney. In his prime he was a man of excellent delivery and surpassing eloquence, and several of his sons have inherited great ability in these respects.

John W. Dawson

At this term John W. Dawson, afterward editor of the Fort Wayne Times, and subsequently governor of Utah Territory, was admitted to the bar. He was a ready writer and a strong, aggressive man, but his pilgrimage closed in the late '70s. Two important events occurred at this term, the conviction of Associate Justice Greer for violating the revenue laws, and the indictment of S. G. Upton, the third resident attorney admitted to the bar, for barratry; but for the credit of the fraternity let it be said that he was acquitted of the charge.

At the September term, 1843, Robert B. Turner became associate judge with Mr. Greer, and Lewis Lynn was then sheriff.

First Conviction of a Felon

At the March term, 1844, Lysander C. Jacoby was special prosecutor. During this session Ezekiel Parker was convicted of obtaining goods under false pretense, which was the first successful prosecution of a felony in the county.

Last Associate Judge

At the March term, 1845, Jonathan Garton became associate judge, and continued in this capacity with Judge Greer until the office was abolished by the adoption of the new Constitution in 1852. At this term James R. Slack, a Union general during the Rebellion and afterward judge of the Twenty-eighth Judicial Circuit, acted as prosecuting attorney. He was a man of rugged sense and old-fashioned honesty.

At the August term, 1845, and March term, 1846, Elza A. McMahon, afterward judge of this circuit, but long a resident of Minnesota, acted as prosecuting attorney.

In 1847 Isaac Covert again became sheriff, but with this exception the same judges and officers continued until March, 1848, when Samuel G. Upton was commissioned prosecuting attorney. He was a straight dignified New Yorker, prematurely gray, but though his frosty head may have been the result of hard study, he never was a dangerous lawyer. He engaged for a number of years in editing and publishing the Bluffton Banner, and was for a time postmaster at this place, but ended his career about 1883 at New Orleans, Louisiana, at the advanced age of seventy-five years. In 1849 Isaac Covert retired from the shrievalty and was succeeded by Amza White.

James L. Worden

At the December term, 1849, James L. Worden acted as prosecuting attorney. He was born in Massachusetts in 1819, but lost his father in infancy, removed to Portage County, Ohio, when a child, and was deprived of the advantages of an early education. He was largely self-taught, and moved to Indiana during his early manhood, where, by his real merits, he gained rapid promotions, first to the office of prosecuting attorney, next to the nisi prius bench, and afterward to the Supreme Bench of Indiana, where he remained nineteen years, and his opinions were so highly regarded that he was styled the "old reliable" and the "John Marshall" of that court.

At the March term, 1851, the accomplished and persuasive John R. Coffroth, who needs no introduction to our people, was admitted to practice before the Circuit Court. Judges L. M. Ninde, William W. Carson, Jacob M. Haynes and Isaac Jenkinson were admitted at the same time, and Benedict Burns was added as the fourth resident member of the bar.

Old-Time Speedy Justice

At the March term, 1852, Amza White, an original character in his day, and Arthur W. Sanford, afterward a prominent clergyman of Marion, Indiana, but now of Michigan, were admitted to the force of local counsel. At this term James L. Worden acted as prosecuting attorney, and in March, 1853, he produced his commission and qualified as prosecutor. William Porter was then added to the list of resident attorneys. In the earlier court practice they disposed of business in a summary manner after the fashion of the old English "dusty foot" court, and, while it was rough on the victim, little complaint was made of the law's delay. One notable instance of this kind was the trial of Detro and Brown, in 1851, for the larceny of a horse belonging to Daniel Miller. They had taken the stolen property into Ohio. The vigilance committee got upon their trail, pursued them to near the City of Dayton, captured the thieves with their plunder, and re-crossed the state line without the aid of a requisition, brought the captives to Bluffton, and on the day of their arrival they were indicted, tried, convicted, and sentenced to the penitentiary; on the morning of the next day the sheriff started with his prisoners to Jeffersonville to execute the judgment of the court. It was claimed that this was done in obedience to that clause in the organic law of the

state which declares that "justice shall be administered speedily and without delay."

At the August term, 1853, Edwin R. Wilson was admitted and became a resident member of the bar. Michael Miller succeeded White as sheriff, and at the February term, 1854, Mr. Wilson became prosecuting attorney.

At the February term, 1855, his brother, John L. Wilson, recently on the Common Pleas Bench at Morrow, Ohio, was placed on the roll of local attorneys, and also the name of John N. Reynolds, an auctioneer and pettifogger of great tact, who "lost his grip" when he reached the Circuit Court.

At the August term, 1844, James L. Worden qualified as circuit judge, and in the November following George McDowell, a brother of the late Hon. James F. McDowell, of Marion, succeeded Bowen Hale as clerk (who had retired after a service of seventeen years).

At the February term, 1857, Robert E. Hutcheson, afterward somewhat distinguished at the Columbus, Ohio, bar, was added to the list of resident counsel, but he remained only a brief time. At this term David T. Smith was admitted to practice.

James F. McDowell and George S. Brown

At the February term, 1858, Reuben J. Dawson, of Albion, Indiana, became circuit judge, James F. McDowell, subsequently a member of Congress from this district and a man of charming eloquence, was admitted to the bar, and George S. Brown, a scholarly man of fine appearance, located here and was also admitted to the bar. He subsequently located at Huntington, Indiana, where he for a time was engaged in business with Col. L. P. Milligan, one of the finest logicians of the Wabash Valley, and thence moved to Topeka, Kansas, where in the midst of an extensive and growing practice he died of cancer.

During this year Newton Burwell, a fluent speaker, ready writer and well-read man, was admitted to the bar, and for many years was identified with much important litigation in our courts, but the hand of business adversity was laid heavily upon him, and after following a diversity of pursuits and rowing against the tide, he at last took up the line of march and drifted to Rapid City, Dakota. At this term Nicholas Van Horn commenced the practice here, but being of a somewhat notional disposition, he alternately became lawyer, preacher and doctor, and later tried his hand at a variety of vocations in Texas.

The Murphy-Freeman Trial

During this term one of the most important criminal trials occurred that has ever transpired in the history of the county. One Moses T. Murphy, a merchant of Vera Cruz, had gone into the country for the purpose of procuring teams to haul wheat to Fort Wayne, and while in the woods between the residences of John Linn and Harvey Risley, he was slain. His continued absence excited the suspicion of his family, friends and neighbors, who instituted a thorough search for him. His body was found with marks of violence upon his head, indicating that he had been felled by some blunt instrument, and upon closer inspection it was ascertained that his jugular vein was severed. A club bespattered with blood and hair was also found near the body. Suspicion at once, whether justly or otherwise, rested upon Dr. William Freeman, who was Mr. Murphy's neighbor. He was arrested and indicted for the crime, and after an exciting trial, was acquitted. The case was ably prosecuted by Sanford J. Stoughton, prosecuting attorney, assisted by Messrs. Ninde and Wilson, and was defended by Messrs. McDowell, Milligan and Coffroth.

Judge Edwin R. Wilson

Edwin R. Wilson became judge at the December term, 1858, and James M. Defrees, of Goshen, prosecuting attorney. Thomas L. Wisner became clerk in November, 1859.

At the February term, 1860, John Colerick, a man of magnetic and persuasive eloquence, succeeded to the office of prosecutor, and in February, 1861, was in turn succeeded by Augustus A. Chapin, afterward judge of the Allen Superior Court.

On August 23, 1861, Thomas W. Wilson became a member of the Wells County Bar, and Nathaniel De Haven became sheriff. In November, 1864, James H. Schell became prosecutor and in the following February Robert Lowry, a member of the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Congresses from the Fort Wayne District, took his seat upon the bench.

Wholesale Divorce Business

The chief business transacted in the courts of this county from the year 1861 to 1867 inclusive, was by some general divorce agent residing at Fort Wayne, who operated for the Middle, Eastern and

New England states and Canada. Divorces under the lax laws then existing were ground out by the half-bushel.

Court Changes, 1865-84

Judge Lowry served until April, 1873, when he was succeeded by Jacob M. Haynes, who continued until November, 1878, when his successor, James R. Bobo, qualified, and continued as such until April, 1885, at which time he was succeeded by Henry B. Sayler. James R. McCleery succeeded Wisner as clerk in November, 1867, and continued as such until his death in April, 1875. Thomas L. Wisner was commissioned as his successor and held until November, 1875. William J. Craig was clerk from November, 1875, to November, 1883, when John H. Ormsby was appointed. Manuel Chalfant was sheriff from 1865 to 1867 and from 1869 to 1871, Isaiah J. Covault from 1867 to 1869 and from 1871 to 1873, William W. Wisell from 1873 to 1877, James B. Plessinger from 1877 to 1881, Marcellus M. Justus from 1881 to 1885, when Henry Kirkwood was elected sheriff. This court was supplied with the following prosecutors during the interim named: Thomas W. Wilson from November, 1866, to November, 1868; Joseph S. Dailey, from November, 1868, to November, 1876; Joshua Bishop from November, 1876, to November, 1877; Luther I. Baker from 1877 to 1880; John T. France from November, 1880, to November, 1884, when Edwin C. Vaughn became prosecutor.

Crimes Against Life

Writing in 1887 a Wells County historian says: "At the November term, 1870, James Gillen was tried for the murder of William J. McCleery, but was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to the penitentiary for twelve years. It was a case that created great excitement and much interest, and was ably conducted by both sides, but as most of the actors in that forensic contest are yet living, the writer deems it proper not to particularize in the matter. The usually quiet and law-abiding county of Wells has been at times under great commotion by reason of homicides in her midst. In late years John Strode was tried for the murder of Daniel Miller, an old pioneer of the county; Mary M. Eddingfield for the alleged poisoning of her children; Frank Hoopengarner for killing Needham McBride; George W. King for killing Martin Thayer, and William Walker for slaying George Shaw. Some of these cases were of great moral turpitude, and are a blotch upon the otherwise fair escutcheon of the county;

but a portion of the cases had many extenuating circumstances, and in the case of Hoopengarner the jury wisely found it to be one of justifiable homicide. The actors in these contests are nearly all upon the state, and for the reasons heretofore stated we will not individualize in reference to them.

The Court of Common Pleas

"Under the present Constitution we had the anomaly, from 1853 to 1873, of a Court of Common Pleas erected and organized with almost concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court, and during its existence it contained the following officers: Wilson B. Loughridge was judge from its organization to January, 1861, when he was succeeded by Joseph Brackenridge. James W. Borden became judge in January, 1865, and continued until January, 1868, when Robert S. Taylor, one of the learned and best equipped attorneys of this State, was commissioned his successor. David Studabaker succeeded him in January, 1869, but resigned in September, 1869, and Robert S. Taylor was then re-appointed by Governor Baker. In January, 1871, William W. Carson became judge, and in January, 1873, Samuel E. Sinclair was commissioned and held the office until it was abolished as a needless expense about three months thereafter. The prosecutors of this court were Benedict Burns, Newton Burwell, James G. Smith, David T. Smith, David Colerick, Joseph S. Dailey and Benjamin F. Ibach.

Wells County Bar in 1887

"During the first thirty years of our country's history the business transactions were small, and one order book of this court embraces all the civil and criminal causes there tried from its organization up to and including the January terms, 1859. During the subsequent period of our jurisprudence several parties were admitted to the bar, and for a time were engaged as counsel here, who no longer responded to the roll call. Among these were Thomas A. R. Eaton, now deceased and a most excellent citizen of the county, and William J. Bright, who edited the Wells County Union. He was 'bright' by name and nature, but died at the beginning of his career in our midst. In 1863 Daniel J. Callen, an eloquent orator and 'word-painter,' came and practiced here, but soon returned to his native State, Ohio, which he for a time served with distinction in her legislative councils. Mr. Callen has been in his grave for the last decade. Benjamin G. Shinn,

now a prominent lawyer of Hartford City, was admitted to the practice here on September 19, 1865. Hon. Daniel Waugh, ex-judge of the Tipton and Howard circuit, was admitted May 22, 1866, with the well-known Jacob J. Todd, and James A. Cotton, May 20, 1867. William J. Davis, a graduate of Washington College, Pennsylvania, located here and was admitted to the bar in 1871, and Captain William J. Hilligass in the year succeeding. Joseph W. Ady, who now enjoys a State-wide reputation in Kansas, was raised in Wells County and admitted to the bar, but shortly after this event obeyed the injunction of the white-hatted philosopher who said, 'Young man, go West.'

"Our present bar comprises more than one-half of all the members who ever engaged as resident attorneys at this place, and embraces the names of Edwin R. Wilson, David T. Smith, Joseph S. Dailey, Jacob J. Todd, Levi Mock, Augustus N. Martin (ex-reporter supreme court and ex-congressman), John K. Rinehart, James P. Hale, A. L. Sharpe, J. H. C. Smith, Homer L. Martin, Edwin C. Vaughn, Charles M. France, Mines W. Lee, George W. Kimble, David H. Swaim, William T. T. Swaim, Win. S. Silver, Asbury Duglay, Abram Simmons, Luther B. Simmons and Charles E. Lacey; and without particularizing, or making any invidious distinctions, the writer with confidence states that this list comprises a galaxy of attorneys as well equipped for the great work of the profession as can be found in any county of Indiana.

"Since the influx of railroads into the county in the autumn of 1869 the county has more than doubled in population and tripled in material wealth; 2,000 miles of open ditches have been constructed and many of turnpikes.

"All kinds of commercial pursuits are being actively conducted, and the county is rapidly gaining a front rank as an educated, enterprising and public-spirited locality; and as a result of the growth and development of her material interests much litigation has necessarily followed in the last fifteen years. But the Wells County bar have been equal to the emergency, fully qualified for the great work they have been called upon to perform, and in their efforts to establish rights and redress wrongs they have been aided at all times by an intelligent and incorruptible judiciary."

The Bench and Bar Since 1885

Since the foregoing was written, thirty years ago, the bench and bar of Wells County have made many steps forward. Judge Sayler,

the last occupant of the Circuit bench mentioned served from April, 1885, to November, 1888, when he retired in favor of Joseph S. Dailey. The latter was promoted from the Circuit to the State Supreme bench in July, 1893, and Edwin C. Vaughn was appointed as his successor. Judge Vaughn served until 1906; Charles E. Sturgis was the incumbent for the six years' term, 1906-12, and William H. Eichhorn has served since the latter year, his term expiring in 1918.

The successive clerks and sheriffs have been noted in the roster of county officials, although legally and specifically they may be classed as court officials.

Within the past thirty years many able lawyers have practiced at the Wells County bar, some having graduated to the bench and others to high legislative bodies. Augustus N. Martin, who studied law with Jacob J. Todd and was afterward in partnership with him, became a member of the State Legislature and a reporter of the Supreme Court of Indiana, and finally a representative in the Lower House of Congress, in which he served for six years. Mr. Martin died in 1901.

The prosecutors since 1901 have been as follows: John Burns, 1901-05; Ashley G. Emshwiller, 1905-09; Ethan W. Secrest, 1909-13; Lee F. Sprague, 1913-17; Orvid A. Pursley, 1917-—.

The Old Country Doctor

The physician has always had a large place in the community, and the old-time country doctor was especially near to the people of Wells County. Like the Good Samaritan, he never passed the sufferer because he had no fee. He took it as a matter of course that he was to go whenever called, without looking at the weather, considering the roads or the creeks, or even asking the reason why. And there is nothing to indicate that in the days of difficult travel and little shelter the applicant for medical or surgical relief was more considerate of the exposure of the doctor than he is today, when it is so much easier for the physician to reach the bedside of the sick either real or fancied.

Dr. Melsheimer's Description

Dr. C. T. Melsheimer, president of the old Wells County Medical Society when it was formed in 1878, who settled at Bluffton in 1844 as a practitioner and long continued as such, has drawn this etching of the typical country doctor with rare skill and evident sympathy. Here it is: "The Country doctor was a kind of medical nondescript

in comparison with the members of the profession to-day. As a general thing, he had the greater part of his life's works before him, was full of energy, and possessed a surplus of vitality that required just such environments to keep him within the bounds of moral rectitude. He was very courteous to his patients, so much so, that all who were old enough he dignified as uncles and aunts, and few of the elders received the honors of grandparents. He had schooled himself to coolness and deliberation amidst all the excitements due to accidents by 'flood or field.' Whatever misfortunes occurred were viewed as unavoidable under the circumstances, so far as he was concerned. With him the past was beyond his recall—the future he knew nothing about; but the ever present was his, and he utilized it in such a manner as to give the most satisfactory results. He was from the very nature of his surroundings a concentrated embodiment of all the specialties so markedly characteristic of the profession to-day, and was compelled to assume the role of physician, surgeon, obstetrician, dentist, aurist, oculist and, if there had been occasion for the gynecologist, this would have been added as an appendix to his other duties. These various callings of his required quite a collection of drugs to meet the demand, and, together with a certain degree of self-reliance which isolation imparts, made him master of the situation in a vast majority of instances. When contemplating a visit in the country, which was a daily occurrence, he meant rough business and was prepared for it. Hence his usual outfit was an old slouched hat or cap that had borne the brunt of many exposures, and which adorned his head, while the lower extremities were encased in a pair of coarse stogy boots; and the ever present green flannel leggings, as further protections against mud and water, together with the compulsory spur attached to the heel, completed the outfits. The protection of his body by some species of mathematical adaptability was made equal to the extremes, and the result was a kind of object that required a rapid evolution of Darwinism to bring him up to the present regulation standard. Thus equipped and armed with a portly pair of pill bags, he started on horseback upon his humane mission, over wagon tracks, along bridle paths, through slashes of water and mud midsides deep, and not unfrequently with no other directions than the blazed track to the lonely cabin in the forest. At night the hickory bark torch or the punctured tin lantern lighted with a tallow dip furnished a frail substitute for the light of the sun."

"Thus in brief," says Dr. Melsheimer, who was writing in 1887, "you have the biography of a pioneer physician from the pen of a junior member who participated in the events which the mutations of

time had wrought some forty-three years ago, and were shrouded in the obscurities of the past until resurrected by one who stands a representative of that period without a constituency. In the providence of God all his co-laborers have laid down their burdens, and joined their kindred spirits across the dark waters of Lethe.

How It Was Thirty Years Ago

"The contrast between the past and the present is so great that its reality appears 'like the baseless fabric of a vision that leaves no trace behind.' The steady hand of improvement has measurably destroyed the cause that annually furnished a very prolific harvest of miasmatic diseases to the physician. So, too, the wilderness has been converted into many fruitful fields. The old log cabin, that virtue of pioneer necessity, has long since given place to the more pretentious dwelling. An increasing commerce has demanded gravel roads instead of wagon tracks and bridle paths. And the intercourse of the outer world is maintained by railroads and telegraphs, through which distance is diminished by the locomotive's flight and time annihilated by the electric flash. Numerous villages have sprung up as if by the hand of the magician, and the country is teeming with an intelligent and enterprising population that thus far has kept step in the progressive march of the nineteenth century."

Pioneer Physicians and Early Epidemics

The first physician in the chronological order was Dr. Joseph Knox, who immigrated to Wells County in 1829 and located near Murray on the farm subsequently owned by Henry Miller.

The second physician, Doctor Williams, located in the village of Murray in 1838. By what few settlers that neighborhood contained he had the reputation of being a successful practitioner. His death occurred a few years afterward in that place.

The third in the county was Dr. William Fellows, a regular practitioner, who was located some two miles south of Bluffton in 1838, on the farm now owned by David Studabaker.

The first epidemic of typhoid fever occurred in the fall and winter of 1845.

The first epidemic of scarlet fever occurred in the latter part of June, 1849.

First case of cholera (Asiatic), August 9, 1839, imported from Huntington, Indiana.

First epidemic of measles in September, 1849.
First case of small-pox in June, 1854, at Bluffton.

The Wells County Medical Society

The Wells County Medical Society was organized April 9, 1878, with the following as its officers: Dr. C. T. Melsheimer, president; Dr. T. H. Crosby, secretary; Dr. Theodore Horton, treasurer; B. F. Cummins, Dr. W. R. S. Clark and Dr. L. A. Spaulding, censors. Perhaps of these first officials of the society, Doctor Horton was as widely known as any, since he had not only been practicing for thirty years, but had become prominent in the affairs of both Bluffton and the state. During the Civil war his speeches as a democrat opposed to the conflict had caused his arrest. The original society adopted the code of the American Medical Association and then, as now, was an auxiliary to the Indiana State Medical Society. Doctor Crosby, who died in 1883, came to Bluffton from Fort Wayne in 1848, and served as a surgeon in the Civil war. Doctor Clark, who had died in the previous year, was an Ohio physician until 1873, when he moved to Bluffton.

Dr. George E. Fulton, who is still practicing at that place and is president of the society of today, is a native of the county, his father locating in Jefferson Township in 1840. He first located at Murray, but has practiced at the county seat since 1882. Doctor Fulton has served in the State Legislature and as health officer of the county. His brother, Dr. J. C. Fulton, is a well known member of the profession. Among the leaders of long and substantial standing may also be mentioned Dr. L. A. Spaulding, who also commenced to practice at Bluffton in 1882; Dr. Isaac N. Hatfield, secretary-treasurer of the present Wells County Medical Society, who came from Kansas in 1887 to throw his lot with the Bluffton people; Dr. E. W. Dyer, Dr. J. W. McKinney, Dr. A. W. Brown, Dr. Louis Severin, Dr. C. H. Mead and Dr. Ray E. DeWeese. The last named, however, is now a resident of Hartford City.

The present Wells County Medical Society comprises twenty-three members; only four physicians in the county have not joined the organization. Regular meetings of the society are scheduled to be held on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month, but on account of the war, which absorbed so much time and energy of its members, its gatherings have virtually become subject to call only.

CHAPTER XX

WAR PREPARATION

First Civil War Volunteers—The Drafts in Wells County—Financial Contributions—Representation in Men—Lieut.-Col. William Swaim—Last Battle of the Civil War—Maj. Peter Studabaker—The Home Guards—Officers and Privates Who Died in the Civil War—Soldiers of the War of 1812—The Lew Dailey Post of Bluffton—Reunion of the Forty-seventh Regiment—The Spanish-American War—Regimental Officers—Companies E and F, One Hundred Sixtieth Volunteer Infantry—In the War Against Germany, Et Al.—Captain Dunn and Company A—Volunteers and Drafted Men.

Wells is no exception to any other county or section of the state which has ever had anything to do with an American war; it has risen to the height of the occasion, whatever sacrifice was demanded in vindication of individual conscience and the adjudged rights depending upon its exercise. From the period of the Civil war of 1861-65 to the World war of 1914- —, its men and women, its boys and girls, have never faltered in their stanch support of what they believed to be right; and the greatest tribute which can be paid to the patriotism of Wells County is to simply say that it has the American spirit.

First Civil War Volunteers

Following the day of the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the following sixteen men of Wells County loaded themselves into wagons at Bluffton and started for Fort Wayne: W. W. Angel, Samuel M. Karns, Dwight Klinck, Samuel D. Silver, Phillip W. Silver, Jacob V. Kenagy, John T. Cartwright, James A. Starbuck, George M. Burwell, Andrew J. Barlow, Thomas J. Barlow, James A. Rounds, John C. Campbell, Isaac H. Lefever, Robert J. Rogers and Isaac P. Wilmington. At the same time Uriah Todd, another resident of the county, enlisted in Ohio.

Throughout the war, there was no "slacking" on the part of Wells County men. A typical section was known as the Glass School district, two miles west of Ossian, which, with its twenty-two families, sent fifty soldiers to the Civil war.

The Drafts in Wells County

The draft was popular with many citizens who would not have waited for its demands to join the ranks, but who believed that it was the fairest way to levy upon the man power of the nation; and their views have since been enthusiastically adopted by the most democratic nation of the world. In October, 1862, the following were drafted from the different townships of the county: Jackson, 18; Chester, 19; Liberty, 2; Rock Creek, 6; Union, 17; Nottingham, 28; Harrison, 19. Total, 109. Jefferson and Lancaster, having furnished their full quotas, through their volunteers, escaped altogether.

The only other draft which operated in Wells County was that of 1864, in which eleven men altogether were selected. There was no open resistance to the draft, or any other military measure enforced during the war, although there undoubtedly existed in the county treasonable organizations known as the Knights of the Golden Circle, composed of sympathizers with the Confederate cause.

Financial Contributions

In these days of millions and billions raised for the support of the "allies" and their "associate," the United States, the financial statistics representing the contributions of Wells County to the maintenance of the Union, do not appear especially imposing, but considering the population of the county (about 11,000) and the comparative wealth of the United States at that time, the contributions of money were generous indeed. During the Civil war the county paid $100,000 in bounties and the townships, $26,650; while for the relief of soldiers' families, the county contributed $1,424, and the townships, $10,000. Grand total for bounties and relief, $138,074. Adams County, with a population of about 9,000, contributed nearly $83,000. If anything, therefore, Wells "had it" a little on its twin county.

Representation in Men

Wells County was represented in a number of regimental units, such as the Twelfth, Twenty-second, Thirtieth, Thirty-fourth, Forty-

seventh, Seventy-fifth, Eighty-ninth, One Hundred and First, One Hundred and Thirtieth, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth and One Hundred and Fifty-third Infantry and the Eleventh and Thirteenth Cavalry.

The Twelfth was a one-year regiment, was accepted for service in May, 1861, and after its term had expired in connection with the Army of the Shenandoah, it veteranized for three years, joined Sherman's grand army, the fortunes of which it followed until mustered out in June, 1865, only 270 strong. During its military life it was commanded by Cols. John M. Wallace and William H. Link.

In July, 1861, the Twenty-second was organized at Madison, Indiana, with Jefferson C. Davis, then a captain in the regular army, as colonel. It was a three years' regiment and, after serving in Southern Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, it also was absorbed by Sherman's command, and had the honor of enduring to the last.

The Thirtieth Regiment of Volunteer Infantry went into service during September, 1861, marched, skirmished and fought in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas, and remained in the last named state, engaged in guard duty, until the Confederacy had long been a government of the past. Its first colonel, Sion S. Bass, died at Paducah, Kentucky, as the result of a severe wound, and he was succeeded by Joseph B. Dodge.

The record of the Thirty-fourth was much the same. Its first active engagement was at New Madrid, Missouri, in March, 1861; it played a leading part in the capture of Island No. 10, and in May, 1863, was in the engagement at Port Gibson, and in the battle of Champion Hills, losing heavily in both. Among those severely wounded in the latter action was Lieut.-Col. William Swaim, who died as the result of his injuries on the 17th of June. His son, James, was a member of Company A, of the Thirty-fourth, and served until his muster-out at Brownsville, Texas, February 4, 1866.

Lieut.-Col. William Swaim

Lieutenant-Colonel Swaim was a carriage manufacturer in New Jersey before he bought a farm near Ossian in 1857. He was engaged in its cultivation and improvement when the Civil war aroused him. He raised Company A from Ossian, Murray and Bluffton volunteers, and when the Thirty-fourth was organized he was elected its captain. In February, 1862, he was promoted to be major of the regiment and June 15th, a year before his death, was advanced to the lieutenant-colonelcy. He was leading the regiment at Champion Hills,

May 16, 1863, when he received his death wound. He died from its effects on the 17th of the following month, while aboard a steamboat bound for the North. His remains were buried at Ossian cemetery, and at the head of his grave stands a beautiful monument erected to his memory by the officers of his regiment. On the 30th of June, succeeding Colonel Swaim's death two weeks before, his fellow officers had gathered to pass resolutions expressive of their sense of loss on his death. Post No. 169 of Ossian was well named in his honor.

James Swaim, the son mentioned above, resumed farming when discharged from the service, and subsequently became a justice of the peace, school trustee and otherwise prominent in local public affairs. He is also an old and leading Mason, an honored citizen of Ossian, now in his seventy-third year.

Last Battle of the Civil War

After the death of Colonel Swaim the Thirty-fourth Regiment participated in the siege of Vicksburg; was in the Banks expedition; went home on a veteran's furlough and returned to Texas to fight the last battle of the Civil war. This occurred May 12-13, 1865, at Palmetto Ranche, adjoining the old battlefield of Palo Alto, near the mouth of the Rio Grande. With a battery of six field pieces, 250 of the regiment drove 500 of the enemy mounted, a distance of three miles in three hours. The colonel, David Bransom, having received news of the surrender of Kirby Smith, the last of the Confederate leaders to hold out in the older states, gave the order to cease firing, as he considered the Civil war closed. Not so the enemy; as he got his gun in position and poured such a destructive fire into the ranks of the Thirty-fourth as to cause a general withdrawal. Colonel Bransom ordered Companies B and E to remain toward the front as skirmishers to cover the retreat, but they were soon surrounded and forced to surrender. The Thirty-fourth lost in killed, wounded and captured, during this historic engagement, eighty-four men. Thus the last battle of the Civil war was a virtual defeat for Union troops. It was witnessed by hundreds of men perched in the rigging of eighty men-of-war and other shipping moored at the mouth of the Rio Grande, as the hazy sun set in a fading glamour behind the sandy hills on the western bank of the great river.

After this last battle of the Civil war, the Thirty-fourth was ordered to various places in Texas and, as stated, was mustered out in February, 1866. Besides Lieutenant-Colonel Swaim, the following officers were credited to Wells County: Maj. John L. Wilson, Maj.

Harrison L. Deam, Capts. William Wilmington and John Phipps, and Lieuts. George Harter and Andrew C. Fulton. Three Harter brothers served from Wells County. The lieutenant was discharged for disability in 1864. Another brother, Andrew, who enlisted in Company K, Seventy-fifth Regiment, was shot at Chickamauga, in September, 1863, and Thomas, who took Andrew's place, died of disease.

Although the Forty-seventh Regiment was a mixed command—that is, no county or counties had a great preponderance of men in the ranks—a few volunteers went from Wells County and a full com-

Old Flag of the Thirty-fourth Regiment

pany was raised in Adams. All the men were raised in the Eleventh Congressional District. It was organized in the fall of 1862 and served in the southwest; participated in the engagements at New Madrid, Fort Pillow, Champion Hills and Vicksburg, in Bank's Red River expedition and before Mobile.

The Seventy-fifth Infantry, also organized in the Eleventh Congressional District, was mustered into service in August, 1862, with John U. Pettit as colonel and a force of more than 1,000 men. With the Eighty-seventh and One Hundred and Thirty-first regiments, it composed the Indiana Brigade. It was the first to enter Tullahoma in the following June, and in September it met with considerable losses

at Chickamauga. Then followed Missionary Ridge, the siege of Atlanta, the march of Sherman to the sea, the progress through the Carolinas and the grand review at Washington. Many men from Wells County were in the Seventy-fifth, among whom were Capt. Sandford R. Karns and Lieut. James A. Starbuck.

There were fewer men in the Eighty-ninth, but Adams County was strongly represented, furnishing three full companies. It was still another command raised in the patriotic Eleventh, and was mustered into the Union service in August, 1862. The Eighty-ninth participated in the operations around Memphis and Vicksburg, in Northern Mississippi and in pursuit of Price through Missouri and of Hood through Tennessee. It was in at the fall of Mobile, and was finally mustered out of the service at that point in July, 1865.

The One Hundred and First Indiana Infantry claimed more of Wells County men than any other regiment. In it were Major Peter Studabaker, Dr. C. T. Melsheimer (assistant surgeon), Capt. Andrew J. Barlow, Capt. George Lindsey, Lieut. William Miller and Lieut. Simon Krewsen.

Major Peter Studabaker

Major Studabaker was serving as county treasurer at Bluffton when the war broke out and was active in organizing Company B, of which he was commissioned captain in August, 1862. In June of the following year he was promoted to be major. The regiment saw much active service and was in most of the battles under General Thomas in the Fourteenth Army Corps. In the battle of Chickamauga it was the last to leave the field. At the battle of Kenesaw Mountain Major Studabaker was wounded in the left foot, but while in the service never lost a day from sickness or any other cause. After the war he was mustered out with his men in June, 1865, and returned to his farming, banking and public interests, fulfilling the full expectations of those who had previously shown their confidence in his stalwart abilities.

The One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Infantry, another regimental unit drawn from the Eleventh Congressional District, had not a few representatives from Wells County who did their part in repelling the furious Confederate charge at Resaca. They were also engaged in the battles at Pine and Kenesaw mountains, the siege of Atlanta, at Jonesboro and in the campaigns waged against Hood's forces near Nashville. Finally, the regiment joined Sherman's army at Goldsboro, and was mustered out of service in December, 1865, with 27 officers and 540 men. The officers from Wells County who served in

his regiment were Captains William H. Covert and James A. Millikin and Lieut. John S. Campbell.

The One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Regiment, which had a number of soldiers from Wells County in it, was mustered into the service in May, 1864, for one hundred days. Under Edward J. Robinson, of North Madison, as colonel, it exceeded its term, doing duty along the lines of the railroads which supported Sherman in his advance upon Atlanta.

The One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Infantry, under Col. James H. Shannon, of LaPorte, was mustered in upon the same date as the preceding and the nature of its service was similar.

The One Hundred and Fifty-third Infantry contained a full company of volunteers from Wells County—Company E of which Benjamin F. Wiley, of Bluffton, was captain; John M. Henry, of Ossian, first lieutenant, and Marvin W. Bennett, of the same place, second lieutenant. It was a one-year regiment and left Indianapolis for the front in March, 1865, being mustered out in the following September after considerable skirmishing with the enemy and guard duty at Louisville.

A number of men from Wells County joined both the Eleventh and the Thirteenth Cavalry regiments. The Eleventh, known numerically as the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Indiana Regiment, was fully organized at Indianapolis, in March, 1864, and the command given to Robert R. Stewart, formerly lieutenant colonel of the Second Cavalry. It saw service in Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Kansas.

The Thirteenth, the last cavalry organization to be raised in the state, was the One Hundred and Thirty-first Regiment of Volunteers. When fully organized in April, 1864, Gilbert M. L. Johnson was its colonel. Both regiments served a portion of the time as cavalry and a part of their term as dismounted infantry. The last eight months of the military life of the Thirteenth, however, was spent as cavalry, pure and simple. It was mustered out at Vicksburg in November, 1865.

The Home Guards

Besides the commands which went to the front with their various quotas of Wells County men, the citizens at home, whose age or other circumstances prevented them from accepting active military service, formed organizations to meet any emergencies which might arise calling for the protection of their firesides and families. Fortunately they were not called out for such service, but at least two bodies of Home Guards were ready and thus officered: Harrison Guards—captain,

Herod T. True, and first lieutenant, Picket P. Connett, of Bluffton; Jefferson Guards—captain, James Gorrell, and first lieutenant, John W. Todd, of Ossian.

Officers and Privates Who Died in the Civil War

In 1885 the Bluffton Banner compiled a list of the Civil war soldiers from Wells County who were killed in action, or who died as a result of wounds received and disease contracted during that period. The officers who gave their lives: Lieut.-Col. William Swain, Thirty-fourth Infantry, buried at Ossian; First Lieut. J. Sharpe Wisner, Company A, Forty-seventh Infantry, Bluffton; Second Lieut. John B. Louis, Company A, Forty-seventh Infantry, Bluffton; First Lieut. Lewis W. Dailey, Company I, Twenty-second Infantry, Murray; Second Lieut. Uriah Todd, Company K, Seventy-fifth Infantry, Prospect; Capt. Sanford R. Karns, Company K, Seventy-fifth Infantry, Bluffton; First Lieut. Simon Krewson, Company G, One Hundred and First Infantry, Prospect; Second Lieut. Abe S. Masterson, Company B, One Hundred and First Infantry, Six Mile; Capt. James A. Millikin, Company F, One Hundred and Thirtieth Infantry, Ossian. Total, 9 officers.

Casualties among the privates of the different commands: Thirteenth Regiment, 4; Thirty-fourth, 35; Forty-seventh, 37; Seventy-fifth, 48; One Hundred and First, 53; One Hundred and Thirtieth, 14; scattering commands, 34. Total of officers and privates, 234.

Soldiers of the War of 1812

In addition to the foregoing Civil war soldiers whose bodies lie in Wells County cemeteries, are the remains of the following who served in the War of 1812: James Jackson (Mendenhall Cemetery), Henry Mossburg (Mossburg Cemetery), Rural Wright, Thomas Deaver, William Griffey, David Miller and William Beasley.

The Lew Dailey Post of Bluffton

Lew Dailey Post No. 33, G. A. R., of Bluffton, was named in honor of Lewis W. Dailey, brother of Judge Joseph S. Dailey, who was only nineteen years of age when he died as first lieutenant of Company I, Twenty-second Infantry. Lieutenant Dailey was the first Wells County soldier to be killed in the Civil war. He is buried at Murray near the old family homestead in Lancaster Township. The Post was

organized October 6, 1881, by Gen. James R. Carnahan, mustering officer, of Indianapolis, with the following charter members: Capt. E. Y. Sturgis, commander; William B. Miller, senior vice commander; William H. Cover, junior vice commander; Levi L. Martz, quartermaster; Dr. Andrew J. Gorrell, surgeon; Jacob J. Todd, chaplain; George W. Louis, officer of the day; Samuel M. Karnes, officer of the guard; F. N. Kellogg, adjutant; James W. Spake, William S. Knapp, Jacob K. Oman, M. M. Justus, Thomas Sturgis, Curtis Burgan, William T. McAfee, Hiram E. Grave, John North, William L. Swan, H. Stejhamper, C. J. Kline and J. V. Kenagy. The commanders of the Lew Dailey Post, in succession, have been as follows: E. Y. Sturgis, 1882; James B. Plessinger, 1883-84; Jacob K. Oman, 1885; Henry Stejhamper, 1886; Benjamin F. Fry, 1887-88; W. H. Stevenson, 1889; John Wasson, 1890; James B. Plessinger, 1891; Joseph L. Myers, 1892; Levi L. Martz, 1893; William J. McAfee and John H. Vose, 1894; J. J. Todd, 1895; C. J. Kline, 1896; O. P. Koontz, 1897; M. Morquart, 1898; H. Stejhamper, 1899; M. M. Justus, 1900; C. Warner, 1901; M. M. Justus, 1902; W. W. Angell, 1903; M. M. Justus, 1904-06; James Chaddock, 1907; Jacob V. Kenagy, 1908; H. C. Melick, 1909; John Wisner, Jr., 1910; J. C. Fulton, 1911; E. M. Rinear, 1912; James Worster, 1913; Benjamin F. Plessinger, 1916; John Kleinknight, 1917. Of the foregoing Messrs. James B. Plessinger, John Wasson, J. J. Todd, C. J. Kline, O. P. Koontz, James Chaddock, Jacob V. Kenagy, John Wisner, Jr., E. M. Rinear, and James Worster are deceased, and up to October 24, 1917, the Post had buried 176 of its comrades.

Reunion of the Forty-seventh Regiment

A noteworthy reunion of Civil war veterans from the old Eleventh Congressional District who had joined the Forty-seventh Regiment was held in Bluffton in August, 1917. Sixty-three members chiefly residents of Whitley, Huntington, Wabash and Adams and Wells counties, assembled in the little court room on the second floor of the courthouse, where the arriving veterans presented their credentials and were presented with badges. The forenoon was given over to a heart reunion of "vets." and their families, and at noon a dinner was served by the local Woman's Relief Corps. Capt. William Henley was chosen president of the organization which is to have charge of the thirty-sixth reunion at Wabash in 1918, and T. B. Ayres, of Huntington, was named as secretary. Thus closed the thirty-fifth reunion of the survivors of the Forty-seventh.

The Spanish-American War

The Wells County companies which were identified with the Spanish-American war were originally E and F, of the Fourth Regiment, Indiana National Guard. Company E was organized at Bluffton on December 12, 1890, and Company F at Ossian, May 3, 1897. For service in the Spanish American war, the Fourth National Guard of Indiana became the One Hundred and Sixtieth Volunteer Infantry, and was composed of companies also from Marion, Decatur, Lafayette, Wabash, Columbia City, Warsaw, Tipton, Huntington, Anderson and Logansport.

Regimental Officers

The regimental officers from Wells County comprised the following: Lieut.-Col. William L. Kiger, Bluffton; Quartermaster Ransom Allen, Ossian; Battalion Adjutant Levi L. Martz, Quartermaster Sergeant D. C. C. Kocher and Commissary Sergeant S. E. Hitchcock, all of Bluffton. Colonel Kiger had joined Company E as captain in December, 1890; was promoted to be major in April, 1892, and lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Regiment, Indiana National Guard, in August, 1895. He is still a resident of Bluffton, in active business. Quartermaster Ransom was a Civil war veteran, having served in Company A, Thirtieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, the later portion of his service as corporal. In July, 1896, he was appointed quartermaster of the Fourth Indiana National Guard. Adjutant Martz, who still resides at Bluffton, had also seen varied service in the Civil war, in connection with the Thirty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He had been principal musician of his company (A), sergeant and quartermaster, and was not mustered out until February, 1866. Adjutant Martz entered the Fourth Regiment of the National Guard as quartermaster sergeant in 1891 and was appointed adjutant of the second battalion in May, 1892, holding that position when mustered into the service of the United States for the war with Spain.

Companies E and F, One Hundred Sixtieth Volunteer Infantry

The Bluffton organization, Company E, arrived at Camp Mount, Georgia, with other units of the regiment, April 26, 1898, when the following officers were enrolled: Captain, Charles F. Brunn, Bluffton; first lieutenant, Charles Pugh, Bluffton; second lieutenant, Henry Johnson, Bluffton; first sergeant, H. Clyde Brown, Bluffton; quarter-

master sergeant, Lester A. Burgan, Bluffton; sergeants, Jacob Britt, Bluffton, and Jacob M. Kress, Fort Wayne; John W. McCormick and Samuel Pence, Bluffton; corporals, Orlando Bennett and Reuben Bennett, William G. Jones, N. Frank Smith, Dillon Myers and Fred J. Tangemann, all of Bluffton; musicians, Carl T. Hathaway and William Stewart, of Warsaw; artificer, John A. Masterson, Bluffton; wagoner, George W. Hart, Poneto.

Second Lieutenant Johnson and Sergeant Clyde succeeded Captain Brunn in command of the company, and Lester A. Burgan followed

Company E Leaving Bluffton

Charles Pugh as first lieutenant, serving until the muster-out of the regiment April 25, 1899. Corp. Fred J. Tangemann succeeded Henry Johnson as second lieutenant in January, 1899, the latter having been commissioned captain a short time before. Of the 90 men in the ranks of Company E, 71 were from Bluffton, 4 from Montpelier, 4 from Pennville, 2 from Petroleum, 2 from Warren, and scattering singles from Craigville, Vera Cruz, Murray, Poneto, Elwood, Fiat and Domestic.

Company F, mostly composed of Montpelier and Ossian men, was, as stated, organized as a National Guard unit May 3, 1897. When mustered into the United States service April 26, 1898, it was officered as follows: Captain, Elmer E. Derr; first lieutenant, Floyd R. Wilson; second lieutenant, George M. Mills; first sergeant, Stanley Allen; quartermaster sergeant, Levi A. Todd; sergeants, Lafayette Allen, Warner J. Deam, Wilson Hoopengardner and Palmer O. Norris, all of the foregoing but the last named being from Ossian—Sergeant Norris of Roanoke; corporals, Harry W. Beatty, Frank E. Foughty, Victor H. Beatty and Robert F. Tisron, all of Ossian, as well as Frank L. Riley, of Sheldon, and Davis W. Wolfcale, of Uniondale; musicians, Marion P. Allen and Clyde Wagner, of Ossian; artificer, Samuel Albertson, Ossian; wagoner, Franklin B. Snarr, Wells County. Of the 89 privates in Company F, 28 were from Montpelier, 21 from Ossian, 6 from Sheldon, 5 from Hartford City, 3 from Kingsland, 2 each from Tocsin, Prospect, Zanesville, Roanoke and Poe, and one each from Uniondale, Warsaw, Marion and other scattering places. There was virtually no change in the officers.

The men of Companies E and F, like other units of the One Hundred and Sixtieth Regiment, were subjected to a thorough physical examination before being mustered into the volunteer service of the United States on May 12, 1898. The command left Camp Mount May 16th and proceeded by rail to Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Georgia, arriving there two days afterward. Under orders to proceed to Porto Rico, the regiment departed from Camp Thomas on July 28th and arived at Newport News, Virginia, on the 30th. As the orders for Porto Rican service had been countermanded, its next destination was Camp Hamilton, Lexington, Kentucky, and it arrived there on August 23d. It was at Columbus, Georgia, in November, 1898. On January 15, 1899, the regiment was ordered to proceed, in three sections, to Matanzas, Cuba, where it was reunited on January 27th and went into camp. There it remained until March 27th, ready for action, but denied any experience of real Cuban warfare. On the date named the men were ordered to proceed to Savannah, Georgia, to prepare for muster out, which occurred at that city April 25, 1899.

In the War Against Germany, Et Al.

A number of the young men of Wells County volunteered to serve in the war of 1917-18 (?) against Germany and the other Central Powers of Europe.

Captain Dunn and Company A

In April Charles R. Dunn, of Bluffton, organized Company A, of the Fourth Indiana National Guard, the members of which were largely citizens of Decatur and Adams County. This being the case, it was sworn into the service of the United States at Decatur in August. Captain Dunn had served in the Spanish-American war as a member of Company E, which had been organized in his home town. His connection with the organization of the company is thus described in the Decatur Evening Herald: "The history of Company A, Fourth Indiana Infantry, starts on April 1, 1917, a few days after our relations with the German Empire were broken off, when Capt. Charles R. Dunn began soliciting for recruits for a new company. After a short time he was joined in the work by Lieut. Robert Patterson. It was also at about this time that it was decided to have the headquarters of the new organization in this city (Decatur).

"In a comparatively short time enough enlistments had been secured to assure a company, and on April 25th, after the physical examination was given by an officer designated for the purpose, the boys were mustered in as Company A, Fourth Indiana National Guard. The ceremony took place on the evening of April 27th, at the Soldiers' Monument, in the presence of a large crowd, Maj. P. A. Davis, of Indianapolis, having charge. At the conclusion of this service, an impressive and appropriate address was given by Hon. Clark Lutz, of Decatur. Subsequent to the above event, Captain Dunn and Lieutenant Peterson were given their respective commissions by Governor Goodrich.

"On August 11th and 12th, the company was given its federal inspection by Lieut. R. B. Moore. The results of the examination were given out later, and showed that five had failed to pass, a number very small in comparison with those of other companies in the vicinity. Members who received their honorable discharges were Dwight N. Archer and M. Richardin, of Bluffton; Robert Allspaw, of Berne; George H. Sprague, of Monroe, and Frank Hower, of Decatur. This brought the roster down to 109."

The Fourth Indiana Regiment was commanded by Col. Robert L. Moorehead, of Indianapolis, who, during the Spanish-American war, had served as a sergeant major in the One Hundred and Fifty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Subsequently, he rose to the rank of major in the Second Indiana National Guard. Company A, with other units of the regiment, went to Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Volunteers and Drafted Men

In the first quota of volunteers the following boys went from Wells County: Jefferson Brinneman, Liberty Center; Paul H. Cook, Poneto; Charles Fryback, Richard Harden, Sherman Kumpf, Homer Miller, Roscoe Stout and Medford Wynne, Bluffton.

Later came the series of drafts, with the result that, by November, 1917, the following were at Camp Shelby, distributed among various commands of the National Army: From Bluffton—Clarence A. Martin, Ray O. Vondersmith, Claude E. Zackmire, James H. Mason, Otis V. Plank, David Eddington, Elwin B. Johnson, Charles E. Grandlienard, George S. Studabaker, William H. Inskeep, William C. Humerickhouse, Alphonso Vachon, John Groh, Earl E. Strohm, Emery L. Cotton, John D. Helms, Gerald M. Dailey, Floyd E. Sands, Jesse Brown, Urban M. Pence, C. B. Ratliff, Charles R. Sturgeon, Raymond J. Tinsman, Hiram Lockwood, Grant S. Hughes, True W. Shepherd, Rudolph W. Borne, William E. Pennington, John A. Eversole, Harmon F. Brubaker, Robert E. Nash, Oral Meyers, Vaughn Abshire, Gordon Graham, Ray Gordon, Wayne Summers, Frank Wetrick and Manuel E. Stinson. The seven last named were the first of the drafted boys to leave for camp. The Ossian contingent comprised: Walter E. Werling, William F. Meyer, Fred A. Heckman, Adolph H. Bauermeister, Clarence A. Jackson, Charles M. Neuenschwander, Milo C. Vance Wilson, Harold Travis, Benjamin F. H. King, Jerre Clark, Hubert Cochran, Robert N. Wolf, Ora C. Toppin, Curtis E. Quackenbush; from Markle—Ralph E. Allen, Harry King and B. E. Swaim; Petroleum—Chauncy King, Forrest C. Johnson, John W. Fox, Lester Knigand, John Shoemaker; Vera Cruz—Fred Heiniger, Albert Baumgardner, Harry Heche and George Heiniger; Poneto—James H. Huffman, Otto C. Cossairt, Arch S. Davis and Hugh Kindlesparger; Tocsin—Warren G. Kleinknight; Craigville—Frank R. Diehl; Fort Wayne—Lloyd Moore; Warren—Lawrence L. Beavans, Verl C. Ebert, Ray B. Clickand, Lawrence Earhart; Uniondale— Frederick T. Rice; Detroit—Albert L. Lewis; Montpelier—Guy A. Kilander, Ralph J. Carter and William E. Riggs; Keystone —Cary E. Mounsey, Frederick D. Day and Edgar L. Lowery; Liberty Center—Robert B. Moore; Kingsland—Carroll P. Pursley. Up to the 15th of November, 1917, when the names were published in the Bluffton papers, eighty-seven boys had been selected through the drafts to represent Wells County in the National Army.

CHAPTER XXI

CITY OF BLUFFTON

Original Town Surveyed as Bluffton—First Sale of Lots—First Merchant and Town Trustees—Mayors of the City—Original Officials and Ordinances—"Markers" of Progress—Pioneer and Early Industries—The First Newspaper—The First Bank—Industries of the '70s and '80s—The Bliss House Built—Bridges Over the Wabash—Telephone Placed in Service—The Waterworks—City Buys Electric Plant—Professor Allen Writes of the Schools—Teacher Lost in Bluffton Wilds—Early Disciplinarians and Schools—The "High" School—The Central Building and Superintendent Reefy—High School Organized by Professor Allen—Completion of Different School Buildings—List of Superintendents—The Public Library—The Local Press of Bluffton—The Banks of Bluffton—Bluffton Industries—Wells County Hospital—Broad Breathing Spaces—Bluffton's Churches—The Methodist Churches—First Presbyterian Church—Bluffton Baptist Church—Other Active Religious Bodies—Old Universalist and Christian Societies—Secret and Benevolent Societies—The Masons—Odd Fellowship in Bluffton—Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters—Other Lodges, Tents, Camps, Hives, etc.

Bluffton is one of the smaller cities of Indiana, which combines an unusual variety of advantages, growing from its geographical position as the natural center of a rich area, which has induced continuous accessions of population, as well as from the enterprising and substantial character of those who founded the community. Thus were established the assurances of comfortable homes, good schools, and a high grade of social and religious life. Men and women came, remained, reared families, and induced capital to flow in from the more settled and richer sections of the country, until the community was closely woven into the great systems of railways destined to bind the Valley of the Ohio and the East with the Lakes Region of the

West. Bluffton has thus become a strong link in the industrial, commercial and civic chain of brisk municipalities, which have made Eastern Indiana famous. It lies almost midway between Fort Wayne and Muncie, with which cities its history has been intimately mingled, and from which it drew much of its earlier inspiration and stamina.

Original Town Surveyed as Bluffton

Bluffton was not a town until it had been created as the county seat, and the original survey was made by John Casebeer, the county

Scene in Villa North, Bluffton

surveyor, in March, 1838. The plat was recorded on the 23d of the month, and the name of the new town and county seat was suggested by Robert C. Bennett, Sr., one of the commissioners, who had donated land for its site, and, with Peter Studabaker, was considered its sturdiest champion. The name was suggested, not because of the land on the south side of the Wabash River at that point is particularly high or abrupt, but merely from the fact that the town site was on the bluff side of the stream.

First Sale of Lots

James R. Greer, the county agent, laid out the original town of Bluffton into 191 lots, and put them up for sale on the 16th of June, following the recording of the plat. Only the alternate lots were sold, and three or four were reserved for Almon Case, to pay him for entertaining visitors at the sale. It was provided that the purchasers should have the privilege of cutting all timber that might endanger themselves or their property.

The day arriving (June 16, 1838), the first lot was sold by Mr. Greer for $92, and others in like proportion. The sale was said to have been very "spirit-ed," the records showing that Almon Case was allowed five dollars for whisky on that occasion, and James Scott seventy-five cents for a jug of the same. The liquor was furnished free to all prospective buyers of town lots, being handed around in buckets, "straight." It is reported that all were more or less intoxicated. Mr. Case had been granted a yearly tavern license, the first one in the county, which, in those times, carried with it the right to make as many of the citizens drunk as he and they saw fit—that is, the tavern license carried with it the right to retail whisky. Mr. Case's tavern was succeeded by the Exchange Hotel, on the southeast corner of Main and Market streets. Both were noted stopping places in the days of the stage coaches.

Ten per cent of the funds derived from the sale of lots was reserved for a county library. On the 16th day of August, following the first sale of lots, in June, the county agent laid out an addition of fifty-six lots, which was the first of a long progeny.

First Merchant and Town Trustees

The next month John Studabaker obtained from the commissioners a license to sell merchandise, and has, therefore, always been classed as the "first regular merchant" of Bluffton. He erected a log pen, with clapboard doors, into which he moved his little stock. This he bartered, instead of selling it for cash, coon-skins and furs being the common mediums of exchange. At about the same time the office of the county clerk was built. These two structures then comprised all the improvements on Market Street, and the view between them was obstructed by various patches of timber, so that strangers usually had to be guided from one to the other.

In 1840 Bluffton had 225 inhabitants, while the entire County of Wells had 1,822.

The first trustees of Bluffton were Nelson Kellogg, Lewis S. Grove, Joseph A. Williams, Engle Starr and William Strode. Mr. Kellogg was elected president and Mr. Grove appointed clerk.

Mayors of the City

Bluffton was incorporated February 12, 1851, since which date the following have acted as mayors: David Angel, 1851; Samuel Decker, 1852; J. H. Buckles, 1853; C. W. Beardsley, 1854; S. R. Karns, 1855; C. S. Bergan, 1856; J. E. Brown, 1857; J. R. McCleery, 1858; I. A. Godard, 1859; W. R. Ferguson, 1859; Robert Russell, 1860; Newton Burwell, 1861; John McFadden, 1865; C. G. Quick, 1866; N. Kellogg, 1868; Levi Mock, 1869; William Blackstone, 1877; David T. Smith, 1879; E. C. Vaughn, 1881; H. L. Martin, 1883; James P. Hale, 1883-89; Martin W. Walbert, 1889-94; La Vergne B. Stevens, 1894-97; James P. Hale, appointed May 26, 1897, for unexpired term of four years; James P. Plessinger, elected for term 1898-1902; John Mock, 1902-06; Walter Hamilton, 1906-10; Frank Smith, 1910-14; John Mock, 1914-8; William B. Little, ex-county assessor, mayor-elect.

Original Officials and Ordinances

The first councilmen of Bluffton, who served in 1851-52, were Thomas L. Wisner, Bowen Hale, John Eby and C. T. Melsheimer. The pioneers among the village officials comprised: John Plessinger, marshal; Erastus K. Bascom, treasurer; George McDowell, street commissioner. The original municipal year was from May to May.

It is of record that the first ordinances passed by the council after Bluffton was incorporated, in February, 1851, were as follows:

1. Taxing each family for the first dog, 50 cents, and for each additional dog, $1; also 50 cents on each $100 of real and personal property, and a poll tax of 50 cents for street improvements.

2. Imposing fines for driving or riding within the corporation limits faster than a common trot, except when going for a physician; shooting for sport, gambling or disorderly conduct, retailing spirituous liquors in less quantities than a quart without a license from the corporation; selling or giving liquors to minors or drunkards.

"Markers" of Progress

In the lives of villages and cities, as in those of individuals, the occurrence of certain events are recognized as "markers," or, in

time-worn phraseology—therefore, in a way, tried, true and valuable —"mile posts." The founding of the first schools and churches, the establishment of distinctive industries, the spanning of the home river by a permanent bridge, the building of the pioneer railroad, the opening of good hotels and stores and the coming of the most desirable community-builders, are some of the happenings which are admitted to be worthy of special and consecutive note before the continuous development of such seedlings into laudable institutions and successful men and women is described in detail.

Almon Case had scarcely got his tavern under way, and John Studabaker had been bartering his meager stock of goods for only a very short time, before those who believed that education and religion should walk together as handmaidens in all American communities were active at Bluffton. In the year of the platting of the town, Rev. George W. Bowers, a Methodist missionary, preached the first sermon at the county seat, under an oak tree at the foot of Johnson Street. He lived many years in an adjoining county to enjoy that honor. Sometime in the following year, 1839-40, the first schoolhouse was built within the town limits. It was a log shack, thrown up on the land of William Studabaker, its more exact location being the northeast corner of the lot afterward occupied by the residence of Henry Thoma, on Scott Street. The first teacher to hold forth in this crude schoolhouse was a United Brethren minister, Asa Cohoe by name. It is said that even his combined duties did not overwork him, but Mr. Cohoe centered in his person many of the best hopes and ambitions of what was then Bluffton.

The Baptists, Universalists and Presbyterians entered the religious field within the succeeding four years, and in 1847 the Bugle gave notice that from that year on, the local newspaper could not be ignored as a Bluffton inspiration and stimulus. Also, in 1840, Robert C. Bennett, Sr., one of the founders of the town, transformed a large frame house, across the street and east from the courthouse, into the Exchange Hotel. Mr. Case was its landlord, and made it a credit to Bluffton, in the way of comfort and sociability. It became one of the most popular stopping places in Eastern Indiana for travelers passing through the country, and for the lawyers and out-of-town people who came to Bluffton on various errands of business and pleasure. Besides Mr. Bennett and John Studabaker, Henry Thoma had come into prominence as a leading merchant and business man, and he later established a furniture business, which developed into an extensive mercantile house.

Pioneer and Early Industries

The two representative industries of Bluffton, in the early times, were the grist mill, built in 1849 by Williams & Morgan, at the foot of Main Street, and the Bluffton Woolen Mills. The latter proved a most unprofitable venture, and the enterprise was finally crushed beyond revival by the fire of 1879, which destroyed the plant. The grist mill enterprise, however, passed through the usual stages of being operated by water power and steam. Regular flour mills afterward came into this field of industry. The Clayton Mill was built on South Street, east of Main, in the late '50s, and in 1861 was purchased by J. T. Clayton. In 1886 he introduced the roller system to the millers and public of Wells County. After the Civil war period, was erected the flour mill near the railroad bridge, of which C. S. Burgan and D. Brown & Son were proprietors at different periods.

The First Newspaper

Although there is no hard and fast rule by which to measure the "pioneer period" of any community, in the case of Bluffton it would probably be safe to say that the decade or dozen years from the platting of the town as the county seat would fall well within that designation. In fact, if any rule could be applied to American communities by which they could be said to have graduated from the raw state of existence, it was that such condition virtually ceased with the establishment of the press in their midst. It will be remembered that the Republican Bugle first commenced to blow at Bluffton in 1847. Two years later that newspaper quoted the following as the ruling prices of the local market: Wheat, 50 cents; rye, 28 cents; corn, shelled, 25 cents; oats, 19 cents; flaxseed, 56 cents; butter, per pound, 8 cents; ginseng, 25 cents; beeswax, 18 cents; feathers, 25 cents; eggs, per dozen, 5 cents. The foregoing prices are certainly interesting, by comparison with the war prices of 1918; but many things can happen in seventy years besides a complete revolution in living conditions as they simply affect the stomach.

The First Bank

Perhaps the next most epochal event from the viewpoint of local happenings after the establishment of the Bugle was the founding of the first bank as a local necessity. Business men demanded it and

the business warranted it. In 1856 John Studabaker commenced lending money and selling New York exchange in connection with his produce trade. In 1863, in company with George Arnold, Jeffrey Bliss, Amos Townsend and James Van Emon, he organized the First National Bank of Bluffton, with a capital of $50,000. In 1868 it closed business, and on New Year's Day of 1869, he associated himself with John and Peter Studabaker and Hugh Dougherty in the formation of the Exchange Bank, which, still later, became The Studabaker Bank.

Old Corn Planter Factory

In the '70s, a number of local industries assumed form. One of the first was placed on its feet by Dr. T. Horton, who furnished the capital to the Bluffton Manufacturing Company in 1871, for the primary purpose of making the corn planter invented by Samuel Jones, a poor blacksmith of the place. A washing machine was afterward added to the output of the factory, as well as a new rotary corn planter, but two of the original partners withdrew, complications arose with the patentees, the business went into the hands of a receiver, and, with the passage of the years, "petered out."

Industries of the '70s and '80s

In 1870 G. W. Breckenridge, of Fort Wayne, built a factory on Washington Street, near the railroad, for the manufacture of hubs and spokes and other forms of hard-wood products. The Norths—Jere and Brother—afterward assumed the industry. In 1877, J. E. and C. A. McKendry, father and son, established a mill at the junction of South Street with the railroad, for the manufacture of barrel staves and heading. A portion of the plant was moved to Muncie by the elder McKendry in 1884. In the same year Theodore Horton founded the Bluffton Shovel Handle Works, the products of which were shipped to the famous firm of Oliver Ames & Sons, of Massachusetts. In 1886 Frank Adams also established a mill for the manufacture of barrel parts, at South Street and the Wabash Railroad.

The Bliss House Built

In April, 1884, the Bliss House was thrown open to the public, and it has since been the leading hotel of Bluffton, having been improved several times and brought up to date. The original building was erected by Jeffrey Bliss, at a cost of about $10,000.

Bridges Over the Wabash

As to the various bridges which have been thrown across the Wabash, to bind the people of Bluffton to the landsmen of the region, near and far, the first structure of the kind was a stout frame near the dam; the second, also an uncovered frame, was built on Main Street; the third, a covered frame, was carried away in the winter of 1887. The bridge last named was replaced by an iron structure, on Main Street, completed in March of that year, at a cost, with masonry, of $12,000. The contractor and builder was the Indiana Bridge Company of Muncie.

In the meantime a number of distinctive public improvements had been completed. In 1879 the City Building, a large two-story brick structure, had been erected for the accommodation of the City Council, the fire department and other municipal business. A few years afterward the fire department had so developed that it possessed two chemical engines, two hose carts and hook and ladder, which, in connection with the Holly System of Water Works, constituted an efficient protection against fire.

Telephone Placed in Service

The telephone was first placed in service at Bluffton in 1882, and James Sales was the first manager of the local exchange.

The Water Works

The original city water works were built during the summer of 1886, at a cost of $17,755, and commenced operations in September

The Water Works

of that year. Their daily capacity was 1,000,000 gallons. The pumping station was near the river and the eastern corporation line, and the original distributing system embraced 2¼ miles of water mains. Thirty-three fire hydrants were in commission as a part of the system of fire protection.

The original water works were under the management of three trustees—L. A. Williamson, Charles G. Quick and George F. McFarren. The well from which the supply was drawn was thirty feet

across and was sunk to a depth of 480 feet. In 1890 a deep well, eight inches in diameter, was bored to a depth of 1,200 feet, and in the following year one was put down more than twice that depth. A new set of pumps was installed in 1892, at a cost of $3,000, and four 450-foot wells were added to the plant the same year. In 1902 three more were sunk.

City Buys Electric Plant

The City of Bluffton has owned its water works since their establishment, and in 1896, after its residents had been supplied with electric lights and power for some time by a private company, the municipality bought the arc-lighting system for the benefit of its streets, and in 1903 took over the commercial part of the business. Since that time the combined plants and systems for the supply of both water and electricity have been municipal property. The total number of water consumers is now 825; number of electric consumers, 1,200; appraised value of the plant, $140,000. Within the city limits are 110 arc street lights, 12 arches and 35 ornamental posts. The present number of fire hydrants is 110, the annual tax for their maintenance being $5,000. The same amount is raised annually for lighting the streets. The last accessible figures as to the finances of the two departments indicate that the gross earnings, on account of water, are about $14,000 annually, and the expenses, nearly $10,000; the same items on the electrical account being respectively, $37,000 and $23,000.

Professor Allen Writes of the Schools

The present system of city schools, which has brought such thorough advantages to the young people of Bluffton, was born in 1868, when all the schools and scholars were first brought under the supervision of one superintendent; but thirty years of struggles and slow advances were to be recorded before that consummation, so much to be desired, should be reached. Albeit the system was born in 1868, it would never have been recognized as that of the present until 1881, when the high school was organized by Prof. P. A. Allen. No one living is better qualified to write the history of the system than this same Professor Allen, present superintendent of the Bluffton schools, and the following facts are condensed from a paper which he contributed to a local publication several years ago, as well as from several personal interviews accorded to the writer.

Teacher Lost in Bluffton Wilds

Rev. Asa Cohoe, already mentioned as the first teacher in town, went hunting one day, and was returning in the dusk of the evening. In trying to find his home, which was located at the corner of Market and Marion streets, he became hopelessly lost and came to the conclusion that he was in the depths of the forest, he knew not how far from his home. Despairing of being able to find his home that night, he decided to make the best of the situation and prepared to spend the night in the woods. He crawled into a hollow log, and barricaded the entrance with logs and chunks, to protect himself from the wolves, which were very plentiful at that time. He thus spent the night in safety, and in the morning was awakened by the crowing of roosters at the home of Nelson Kellogg, at the corner of Main and Cherry streets, only a block away. The log in which he had lain was where the First Baptist Church now stands, on Cherry Street.

Early Disciplinarians and Schools

In 1843 Nelson Kellogg taught a school in a shed-roofed building at the north end of Johnson Street, on the banks of the Wabash. J. B. Plessinger had occasion to remember that year, as he froze his feet while gathering firewood with which to keep the rest of the school from freezing to death. Ann Maria Hubbell, a niece of Adnah Hall, taught school in the same building later. The next winter George Brown taught school in the log schoolhouse, which was the first temple of learning built in the county. Robinson McKinney taught school the next year in a double room, which stood on the present site of the Studabaker Bank. Several men still living in this city, who were boys under the tuition of George Brown, can tell interesting stories of that gentleman's unsuccessful attempts to use formidable bundles of willow gads on the backs of the larger pupils. James Donaldson and James McQuade taught school at one time in a building at the east end of Market Street, on the river bank. Both these gentlemen are remembered, not only for their profound scholastic attainments, but for the severe means of discipline to which they resorted.

Another of the early school buildings was a brick structure which stood on Miller Street, just north of the old Baptist Church. This is still standing, and forms part of the Linn residence. In this building, R. H. Jackson and wife were among the early teachers. Mr. Jackson was a Presbyterian minister and his wife was the first music teacher in town.

THREE OLD BLUFFTON BUILDINGS

The "High" School

The third brick schoolhouse to be erected in the city was the two-story building at the corner of Marion and Cherry streets, which was called the High School, not only because of its imposing appearance, but for the reason that the larger scholars attended there. Two teachers were employed in this building. This was used for school purposes until the erection of the old Central Building, after which it was used as a corn-planter factory, and then as a residence. It also served as the home of the free kindergarten for one year.

Among the early teachers in Bluffton, remembered by our oldest citizens, were Elizabeth Jane Burwell, who became the wife of Cyrus Burgan; Mrs. Wilson M. Bulger; Miss Belle Hanna, of Wooster, Ohio; Mrs. Martha Wilson, John J. Cooper, John Foreman, Jack Drummond, Crawford Marquis, Charles Cruickshank; Cynthia Parker, of Huntertown; Elizabeth Blackledge, now Mrs. E. M. C. Ninde; Lizzie Cozier, of Pennsylvania; T. A. R. Eaton, John S. McCleery, Mrs. H. C. Arnold, Newton Burwell and Nelson Kellogg. Lewis S. Grove, the first county auditor, taught a school in a building on the hill where the Henry Oman house once stood. The present imposing structure of the First Reformed Church, corner of Marion and Cherry streets, occupies the site of the original building.

The Central Building and Superintendent Reefy

In 1868 the first six rooms of the Central Building were erected, and the other three school properties disposed of. In the erection of the new building the School Board came in for very sharp criticism. It was pronounced by many a very foolish piece of extravagance, and it was predicted that the time would never come when it would all be needed for school purposes. But time has justified the wisdom of those who planned and built at that time, for it was not long until the six rooms were overcrowded, and it became necessary to build more rooms, making it a ten-roon building.

After the erection of the Central Building, in 1868, all the pupils were brought together and were placed under the care of Professor Reefy, the first city superintendent. He was an excellent man for the place, and soon had the school system of the city in satisfactory operation. The magnificent maples, which adorned the campus of the High School and Central buildings were monuments to his memory, as he planted them with his own hands the first year of his school work in Bluffton.

High School Organized by Professor Allen

The High School was organized by Prof. P. A. Allen in 1881, and in 1883 graduated its first class. It was commissioned in 1885, and its courses have been strengthened from year to year by the addition of studies, and its work has been made more effective by the equipment of good chemical, physical and biological laboratories. Its distinctive departments now comprise Manual Training, Domestic Science, Art and Music, each under a supervisor. The High School has nine other teachers on its faculty. As an institution, it is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and its graduates are admitted to all colleges without re-examination. The teaching force of the Central School comprises thirteen; of the Columbian, four, and the Park, four. The total number of teachers within the city system is thirty-four. The enrollment is 1,125, of which the average attendance is about 90 per cent.

Completion of Different School Buildings

The increase in school accommodations has kept pace with the growth of the city, and its juvenile population. As stated, the six rooms of the Central Building were erected in 1868, and four rooms were added in 1879. The old Central Building was razed in 1910, and the fine sixteen-room structure of the present erected in its place, at a cost of $55,000. Perhaps the most striking feature of the schoolhouse is its magnificent assembly hall. It is modern in every way; and that tells the story to the average American.

The present High School Building was erected in 1890-91. Two rooms of the Washington Park Building were completed in 1883, and the other two in 1886. The Columbian Building was completed in 1893.

Superintendents

The city superintendents of Bluffton have been, in succession: F. S. Reefy, Samuel Lilly and Mr. Thomas, from 1868 to 1878; E. A. Buckley, E. C. Vaughn, G. W. Gunder and W. Ernst, 1878-81; P. A. Allen, 1881-91; W. P. Burris, 1891-97; E. D. Walker, 1897-99; W. A. Wirt, 1899-1907; P. A. Allen (second term), 1907- —.

The Public Library

The latest addition to the municipal utilities which have been applied to the intellectual and moral uplift of the community is the

Bluffton Public Library. Its nucleus was formed when Prof. P. A. Allen organized the High School in 1881. Year by year funds were raised by means of entertainments and voluntary donations of books and money, until the collection had reached several thousands of volumes.

As a distinctive public institution, the library dates from 1902. In that year its first Board of Trustees was organized, as follows: Charles C. Deam, president; Mrs. W. H. Eichhorn, vice president; Delia W. Hale, secretary; Mrs. Abram Simmons, Mrs. Dana Brown, Samuel E. Hitchcock and W. H. Tribolet. The meeting at which the organization was completed, was held at the home of Mrs. Hale, May

Bluffton's Public Library

15, 1902. Rooms in the courthouse were secured for library use, and the library placed in charge of Miss Bertha Craven.

Some years later, steps were taken looking toward a permanent library building. After some correspondence with Andrew Carnegie, a donation of $13,000 was secured. This fund was supplemented by more than $5,000, subscribed by citizens of the community. A lot was purchased, and the present building erected. The total amount expended in building, furnishings and lot was $18,909.20. The building is an unusually artistic and well-planned structure, and has served well even the growing needs of the institution and the public. It was thrown open to the public on May 15, 1905, a general reception and an art exhibit marking the occasion.

From a small beginning, the collection of books has grown to

9,620 volumes. For the year 1916, the report showed a circulation of 39,040, a gain of 12,000 during the year. There are more than three thousand card holders.

In 1912, the library was reorganized, and the work of cataloging the books was undertaken. This has since been completed, and a card catalog of the modern type furnishes a complete index to the resources of the library. Since 1914, rural extension work has been in operation. At the present time, Harrison and Lancaster townships have service from the Bluffton Library. Books may be borrowed direct from the central library, and from twenty deposit stations and branches throughout the territory served. In 1916, 15,000 loans were made in the townships, outside of Bluffton. Books are delivered to the stations by automobile, a new supply being sent out every six weeks or two months, and the books which have been read returned to the library. These rural stations, with two stations in the ward schools of Bluffton, make in all twenty-two lending agencies besides the Central Library.

The library building has been equipped in a manner to make it suitable for use as a social center. Assembly and committee rooms, comfortably furnished and made free to all community organizations, greatly increase the usefulness of the building. About 200 meetings are held in the building each year, with an attendance of several thousand persons. This brings the library into close touch with the people. Special work with children, schools, clubs and other organizations, and co-operation with all movements for community betterment are considered an essential part of the work of the librarian and her assistants.

The members of the board at the present time are W. L. Kiger, president; Mrs. W. H. Eichhorn, vice president; Mrs. Abram Simmons, secretary; Mrs. M. W. Walbert, Chas. G. Dailey, C. E. Sturgis, P. A. Allen, F. M. Buckner, Frank Heckathorn and N. D. Kleinknight. The librarian is Miss Nannie W. Jayne, and the assistants are Mrs. Ida Ashbaucher and Miss Vera Sturgis.

The Local Press of Bluffton

For nearly seventy years Bluffton has had an established place as a newspaper town in the journalistic annals of Indiana. The Banner Publishing Company, of which George L. Saunders is editor, issues the veteran of the local press. Its weekly reverts to 1850, when Samuel G. Upton and Lewis S. Grove commenced to publish the Bluffton Banner, successor to the Republican Bugle, the first newspaper in

Bluffton from the East

The City from the South

Wells County, whose editor, Thomas Smith, had but recently died. Until 1884 the Banner waved very fitfully, as it changed ownership on an average every two years. The transfers occurred in the following order: T. J. McDowell, George McDowell, James G. Smith, D. J. Callen, T. B. Gutelius, J. H. Smith, Theodore Horton & Company, J. G. Smith again, William J. Craig, Homer L. Martin, E. A. K. Hackett, Martin & Roth, Samuel S. Roth, Sturgis, Gorrell & Gorrell and E. Y. Sturgis. The paper was enlarged and otherwise improved in 1881 and Capt. E. Y. Sturgis did much to bring it forward. Mr. Crain, who edited the paper at an earlier date, served as clerk of the court for eight years, and was afterward appointed receiver of the Narrow Gauge Railroad, and still later was placed in editorial control of the Indianapolis Sentinel. Mr. Hackett, after making an indifferent success of his editorship of the Banner, raised the Fort Wayne Sentinel to substantial prosperity and influence. Not a few other influential, even brilliant democrats, were identified with the Banner and assisted to establish it as an influential organ of the party in Eastern Indiana. By 1899 the affairs of the paper warranted the establishment of an evening daily edition, and three years later George L. Saunders, its present editor, added his inspiring personality to its forces. He had been trained and educated as an editor and printer in the Portland (Indiana) Sun, and the Government Printing Office, Washington. Mr. Saunders had also had an interest in that publication, had done much to improve it and was therefore well qualified to assume the editorial management of the Banner. In January, 1902, he purchased an interest in the Bluffton Daily and Weekly Banner, which he retained after the formation of the Banner Publishing Company, which has since conducted both editions, as well as the job printing plant.

The Evening News, of Bluffton, and its weekly edition, The Chronicle, are published and edited by David H. Swaim, an old and able member of the local bar, as well as of the newspaper craft. He has been identified with republican journalism, in this connection, for thirty years, during the earlier portion of that period with his younger brother, William T. T. Swaim. The Chronicle and its immediate predecessors had already spanned thirty-five years of newspaper uncertainties and trials when the Swaim Brothers ventured to assume the enterprise. The story runs in this wise: In 1853 the People's Press, a republican organ, was established in Bluffton by John Wilson and Michael Karnes, who employed as editor a Mr. Knox, a newspaper man of considerable experience and a fair writer. Subsequently, James Branigan and James Gorrell served as editors, and under their

management the paper continued to make its weekly appearance until 1857, when the plant was purchased by T. N. Kellogg and a Mr. Bixler, Nelson Kellogg taking charge of the editorial work. Messrs. Kellogg and Bixler conducted the paper with fair success until 1861, when it passed into the hands of W. J. Bright. He changed its name to the Wells County Union, under which title it was issued until the stringent financial conditions of the time caused its temporary suspension.

After a time the enterprise was revived by Cephas Hogg, who, as editor and proprietor, labored against many obstacles until succeeded by J. H. Smith, under whose management the name of the paper was changed, in 1866, to the Wells County Standard; the editorial department in the meantime being in charge of James Sewell. Subsequently A. Callon and J. Sewell became owners, and in 1869 the title was a third time changed, the name of Bluffton Chronicle being substituted and S. Davenport becoming editor. Under the proprietors named, the Chronicle was issued until 1873, when the publication again suspended, but after a short time, J. W. Ruckman took charge of the plant and brought the business to a paying standard. In 1877 he sold it to C. A. Arnold; in 1878 George Arnold & Son became proprietors, and conducted the business for ten years. This brings the history of the enterprise up to the time when the Swaim Brothers became connected with it.

David H. and William T. T. Swaim were both born near the Town of Ossian, on a farm. When the former was five years of age, and the latter two years old, their father was killed in the Civil war, and the widowed mother moved into the village, in order to give the boys better educational advantages than could be enjoyed in the district schools. About the time of reaching his majority, David H. Swaim became associated with Prof. P. A. Allen in the management of a select school at Ossian. In 1880 the brothers entered Fort Wayne College. William graduated and taught in the Bluffton Schools, while David became a teacher at Ossian. In 1882 they both entered the law school of the University of Michigan, and graduated two years later, moving to Bluffton for practice in September, 1884.

Swaim & Swaim, the law firm, established a substantial and high-grade business, but in May, 1888, withdrew from the legal field and, in partnership with Asbury Duglay, purchased the Bluffton Chronicle, in May, 1888. Mr. Duglay died in August, 1891, after which the Swaim Brothers bought the interest of the deceased from his estate. William T. T. Swaim died October 6, 1895, and since his death, David H. has remained sole proprietor of the business. In 1893 the Evening

News had made its appearance as the daily edition of the enterprise, so that Mr. Swaim has a double title to prominence in the newspaper field. He had a monopoly in the daily field until 1899, when, as stated, the Banner became a competitior.

The Banks of Bluffton

The banks of Bulffton, three in number, are well managed and supported by the merchants, manufacturers and citizens of the place. The origin of The Studabaker Bank, the oldest and strongest of them all, has been noted in the modest financial venture of John Studabaker in 1856. Founded as a National Bank in 1863, it was afterward reorganized by its founder as the Exchange Bank. That was in 1869, when Peter Studabaker and Hugh Dougherty became identified with it. The history and substantial career of The Studabaker Bank commences in 1903, when it was organized as a financial institution under the state laws, although it had assumed that name three years previously. Its original directors were Hugh Dougherty, Henry C. Arnold, Samuel Bender, Fred Ashbaucher, Albert B. Cline, James W. Sale and Herman D. Cook. Mr. Dougherty was elected president and Mr. Arnold, vice president, while John S. Gilliland was chosen cashier. After being at the head of the bank's affairs for a year, Mr. Dougherty was elected president of the Marion Trust Company and moved to Indianapolis. Henry C. Arnold was elected president of The Studabaker Bank in place of Hugh Dougherty, in July, 1904, and held the position for five years. He resigned the presidency in July, 1909, and R. S. Todd was elected in his place, John S. Gilliland, the cashier, being advanced to the vice presidency. W. W. Rogers, the present incumbent of that office, at the same time succeeded Mr. Gilliland. The Studabaker Bank is now the largest state institution of the kind in the state outside of Indianapolis. Its total resources amount to $1,942,753.77. The capital of the bank is $200,000; surplus and undivided profits, $52,603, and average deposits (fall of 1917) nearly $1,700,000.

The Wells County Bank has been organized for thirty years. On June 7, 1888, the following gentlemen met at the law office of Dailey, Mock & Simmons, at Bluffton, to discuss the project of establishing a state bank: Amos Cole, Frederick Engeler, J. W. Goodyear, G. A. Harnish, J. F. Krehl, G. F. McFarren, Levi Mock, Eugene Morrow, William Mertz, John North, Abe Simmons, Thomas Sturgis, J. E. Sturgis, G. T. Williamson and L. A. Williamson. On the 23d of the month the directors were elected and they chose from among their

number L. A. Williamson as president, Eugene Morrow and F. F. Engeler, vice presidents, and J. W. Goodyear, cashier. There was no change in that management until 1905, when Mr. Goodyear resigned the cashiership and E. B. Williamson was selected to succeed him. The bank opened its doors in its own home at the corner of Market and Main streets, and these quarters were occupied continuously for over twenty years, when the constantly increasing business rendered them inadequate, and on October 30, 1909, the banking room was vacated for the purpose of being thoroughly remodeled. The Wells County Bank began business with a capital of $45,000; in 1902 this was increased to $100,000, as at present. It has a surplus of $25,000, with demand deposits of over $303,000 and demand certificates of $724,000. Its total resources (fall of 1917) amounted to $1,254,000.

The Union Savings & Trust Company was organized in July, 1906, with L. C. Davenport as president, W. A. Kunkel, vice president, and Fred J. Tangeman as secretary and treasurer. Soon after the death of Mr. Davenport in January, 1917, D. A. Walmer was elected president, and still holds the position. Harry Swisher is vice president and Mr. Tangeman retains his position as secretary and treasurer. In January, 1918, the financial status of the company was represented by the following items: Capital, $25,000; surplus and undivided profits, $5,000; average deposits, $175,000.

Bluffton Industries

The industries of the city include manufactures of wood, furniture, gloves, machinery, cement and flour and, specially, include the following establishments: H. C. Baye Piano Company, employing some 300 hands; the Boss Manufacturing Company (D. A. Wilkins, manager) and the Great Northern Glove Factory, both makers of gloves, and the former employing about 200 hands; Bluffton Cement Products Company, manufacturers of blocks and tile, and North, Frazier & Company, whose output is clay tile alone; Red Cross Manufacturing Company, the products of which are lawn swings, windmills, pumps and towers, with a galvanizing department which is one of the largest in the state; George W. Grimes' Foundry, which turns out power oil machinery and ships it to Oklahoma and other points in the United States and abroad; W. B. Brown Manufacturing Company, the products of which are chandeliers and novelties; Will H. Ditzler, manufacturer of hard lumber; Bluffton Milling Company, N. E. Stafford, proprietor, and the large interests controlled by the

West Market Street, Bluffton

Studabaker Grain and Seed Company. The last named include elevators, with capacities named, located as follows: Bluffton, 45,000 bushels; Liberty Center, 20,000 bushels; Tocsin, 18,000 bushels, and Keystone, 18,000 bushels. For a number of years previous to the sale and junking of the Bluffton, Geneva & Celina Traction Line in 1917, the Studabaker Grain and Seed Company also owned and operated elevators at Vera Cruz and Linn Grove, with capacities respectively of 10,000 and 18,000; but when the road was closed and these points were left without adequate shipping facilities, the business of the elevators naturally came to a standstill.

Wells County Hospital

A handsome and substantial two-story red brick building with stone trimmings at the south end of Main Street, represents the new Wells County Hospital which is not yet (March, 1918) entirely completed. During the month of this writing an additional $12,000 was appropriated and added to the original contract price of about $28,000 and the intention now is to have the hospital completed by May. The project was placed under way, in the spring of 1916, when a number of Bluffton citizens, who had long recognized the desirability of establishing such an institution, met to consider the proposal of Dr. J. E. Allport, of Cleveland, who undertook to lead the campaign to draw a sufficient sum of money from the County Board for the erection of a County Hospital under the state laws providing means for establishing such institutions. Previously, there had been considerable sentiment in favor of a hospital, but Dr. Allport's proposal served to crystallize it and lead it toward accomplishment.

The preliminary procedure involved the signing of a petition by a stated number of freeholders resident in the county, and this was accomplished without difficulty by a number of physicians and other interested citizens, working under the direction of Dr. Allport. After the petition was completed, the County Council and the county commissioners took favorable action upon it, and the latter appointed a Board of Hospital Trustees to take charge of the erection and operation of the building. The members of that board were: Carl Bonham, president; J. A. McBride, Levi Huffman, A. H. Knight and W. H. Lipkey. The order appointing the board and thereby establishing the hospital was entered by the county commissioners March 6, 1917.

The general contract for the erection of the building was awarded

to J. Sam Ozee, Jr., of Mattoon, Illinois, on June 7, 1917, for $28,194; that sum not including the equipment of the building. Dr. Allport himself was engaged as the supervising architect. The two had but recently completed similar hospitals at Mattoon and Connersville, Indiana. The corner stone of the hospital was laid on the afternoon of Labor Day, September 3, 1917, under the auspices of the Bluffton Masons. The music was furnished by the Hartford City Band and local vocal talent. After the formal ceremonies had been concluded in general charge of Elba L. Branigan, most worthy grand master of the state, short addresses were delivered by William H. Eichhorn and Judge David E. Smith, with other prominent Masons, the entire program being interspersed with music and closing with the benediction by Rev. William T. Arnold.

The hospital stands in a natural grove in the southern outskirts of Bluffton, retired, but readily accessible. The two-story building has ground dimensions of 103 feet in length and 45 feet in width. Its main entrance is in the center of the east front. According to the plans the interior arrangement and appliances are as follows: On the first floor are the rooms for the janitor, the supplies and fuel, quarters for emergency and contagious cases, kitchen, laundry and dining room, X-ray and dark rooms and seven wards. In the south wing of the second floor are the operating rooms, the maternity and infant's wards, and quarters devoted to medical and surgical preparation and the care of instrument, apparatus, etc. The remainder of the second floor is taken up by the reception and superintendent's rooms, sun parlor and beds for about a score of patients. The hospital is equipped with all such modern conveniences as laundry chutes, incinerating plant, sanitary wash basins and a complete call system. It is so arranged that a button pressed by a patient turns on a light over his door and at the superintendent's desk, which can be turned off only from within the patient's room. Although the Wells County Hospital is not among the large institutions of the kind in the state, it is among the most modern.

Broad Breathing Spaces

The pretty stretches of country within easy walking distance of Bluffton, especially along the Wabash River, make it unnecessary to provide its residents with large public parks, as is the case with larger and more congested cities, Its lungs, as such public resorts have been called, are not confined to Washington Park, first improved in the late '80s, and the grounds around Central and High schools

and the County Hospital, but embrace all "out-of-doors." Bluffton, therefore, is far from being stifled.

Elm Grove and Fairview cemeteries, east of Main Street bridge, are pretty spots, improvements in the former tract having been progressing for about forty years.

Bluffton's Churches

The religious bodies of Bluffton began their good work early and have continued it unceasingly. During the earlier period they shared

Bird's Eye View from the West

the intense earnestness which marked the general propagation of doctrinal beliefs, but of late years such discussions have largely subsided in favor of charitable and benevolent work in which all could unite; besides which, of course, each church body has had its special activities.

The Methodist Churches

The writer has mentioned the coming to Bluffton of the first preacher, Rev. George W. Bowers, the Methodist clergyman and

pioneer schoolmaster. The Methodists held their meetings in various places at the county seat, including that popular public resort, the courthouse. Finally they erected a frame church at the corner of Cherry and Williams streets, which they occupied until the completion of their brick house of worship, on the southwest corner of Washington and Williams. This was dedicated by Bishop Bowman on October 13, 1872, during the ministry of Rev. P. Carlan. The original building was 45 by 80 feet with spire more than 126 feet in height; cost, $12,000. The present structure was completed in 1893 at a cost of about $45,000. The first parsonage was built in 1882. George W. Bowers, the first pastor of the society, remained the regulation year, and up to the building of the first church the following only exceeded that length of service: Rev. Joseph Ockerman, 1840-42; Rev. F. A. Sale, 1855-57; Rev. E. S. Preston, 1859-61; Rev. J. H. Hutchinson, 1861-63; Rev. J. P. Nash, 1865-67; Rev. J. Greer, 1868-70. Rev. P. Carlan was minister in 1871-73. There seems to have been no let-up in the progress of the First M. E. Church, and by the late '80s it had reached a membership of between 400 and 500, with a very large Sunday school. Prof. P. A. Allen was superintendent of the latter for many years. The resident membership of the church is now (January, 1918) about 970 and the nonresident, 90. Rev. W. T. Arnold has served as pastor since March, 1913. Of late years those in charge have been granted longer terms of service than formerly, as witness: Rev. L. A. Beeks, 1901-06; Rev. J. K. Cecil, 1906-09 and Rev. M. M. Martin, 1909-11.

The Epworth M. E. Church is a mission of the First, in the western part of the city, and the Wesleyan Methodist is in the southeastern section of Bluffton.

First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church was organized August 24, 1844, with twenty-two members, by John H. Russ, who had been appointed by the Presbytery of Miami for that purpose. The ruling elders were Andrew J. Riddle and Robert Marshall. Religious services were first held in the log courthouse. Succeeding Mr. Russ for several months only was Rev. Andrew C. McClellan, after whom came Rev. Wilson M. Donaldson, who served from October, 1848, to April, 1860. That is the longest period of service in the entire list. Rev. John W. Drake, who was pastor from November, 1873 to April 19, 1875, died suddenly on that day while apparently at the height of his usefulness. The first house of worship for the Presbyterians was built in 1853-54,

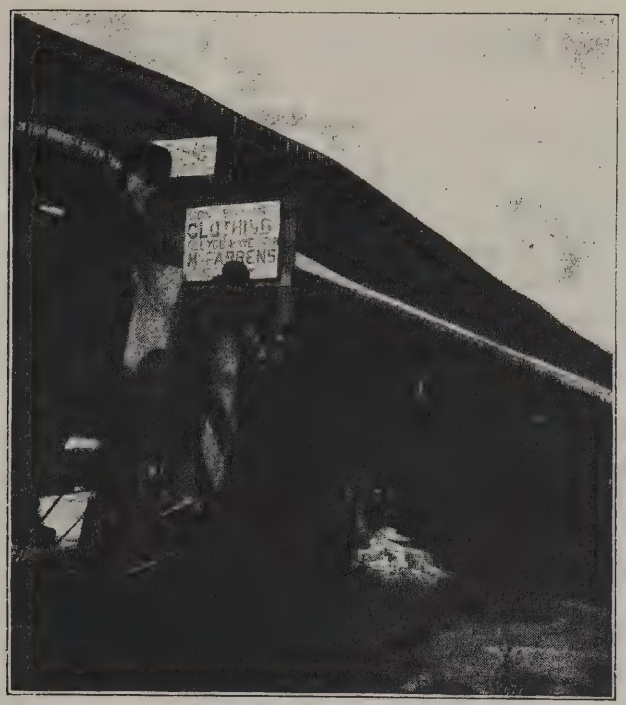
and the parsonage in 1875. A Sunday school was organized in 1860. In 1883-84 a handsome brick church was erected at a cost, including the lot, of $13,000. Since that time the additions to the original building have virtually equalled the 1883 structure. The principal of these include the Akron Plan Sunday School department, pastor's study, choir loft, balcony and choir room. A $4,000 manse has also been purchased. Within the last six years a new vapor heating plant has been installed. The cost of the improvements from 1883 to the fall of 1917 was nearly $17,000. Rev. Thomas J. Simons has served the charge since November, 1911, his immediate predecessors for a decade having been Rev. Asher H. Brand, Rev. John McMurray and Rev. Charles G. Miller. Including resident and non-resident members, the strength of the society is now about 400; the active resident members number 336 (March, 1918).

Bluffton Baptist Church

The Bluffton Baptist Church was organized October 14, 1841, by Revs. Robert Tisdale and Jesse Corn, with Fleming Johns, Elizabeth Johns, Rebecca Stahl, Henry B. Elston and Martha Grimes as constituent members. Fleming Johns was elected deacon and Rev. Robert Tisdale was chosen pastor. He served only a few months, but returned to the society as its pastor in 1844 and remained three years. The first meetings were held at the dwellings of the members, as it was impossible to even secure schoolhouses for that purpose. In August, 1844, the church was received into the Salamonie River Association. The pastors of the Bluffton Baptist Church who have enjoyed the longest pastorates have been the following: Rev. Robert Tisdale, 1841-47; Rev. Abel Johnson, 1852-62; Rev. W. W. Robison, 1863-74, 1875-76; Rev. J. H. Reider, 1877-85; Rev. W. W. Hicks, 1892-98; Dr. O. R. McKay, since 1913. The original house of worship was dedicated in September, 1871. It was built of brick, was 36 by 50 feet in dimensions, and cost $3,000. The church now occupied was completed in March, 1895, and has since been greatly improved. As late as 1916 its interior was re-frescoed and it was otherwise beautified. The present membership of the Baptist Church is 725.

Other Active Religious Bodies

The St. Joseph Catholic Church has not a fair local membership, much of its strength being drawn from the adjacent country districts. Its house of worship is a modest frame building, at the corner of



Old Bridges at Bluffton

Williams and Cherry streets, dedicated by Bishop Dwenger, of Fort Wayne, in 1875.

The Nazarene Church is located corner of Cherry and Williams streets, and is very active in that part of town.

The First Reformed Church of Bluffton is represented by a strong society, with a handsome house of worship at the corner of Marion and Cherry streets. The society is now under the pastorate of Rev. B. E. Reemsynder. The Reformed Church was organized March 1, 1884, in the Universalist Church on Cherry Street.

The Old Universalist and Christian Societies

Mention of the latter recalls the old Universalist society organized in Bluffton in 1855, although Universalist preachers were heard there as early as 1843. In the early times it was this religious body, with its alert champions, which proved to be a firebrand in the ranks of such of the Orthodox churches as the Methodists, the Presbyterians and the Christians. The public discussions between the adherents of these various sects served to keep the community wide awake, if they resulted in no very definite conclusions. The rule was that each side finished the discussion still convinced that it had the best of the argument, and ready at any other time to convince the opposition. Among the most prominent Universalists of Bluffton were Bowen Hale and Dr. C. T. Melsheimer. In 1880 the society completed a church on Cherry Street.

Among the other churches, which were long active and are no more, were the old Six-Mile Christian Church and the First Christian Church of Bluffton. The former, three miles southeast of Bluffton, was organized September 2, 1838, by Elder Hallet Barber, who lived at Rockford, Wells County, died of Asiatic cholera about 1850 and was buried in the Mossburg Cemetery. Henry Markley was one of the early superintendents of its Sunday school. The first log church of the society was built in 1840; the second, a comparatively large frame building, was completed in 1859 and would comfortably seat 300 people.

The First Christian Church of Bluffton was organized in April, 1883, by its first pastor, Rev. W. D. Samuel. In the following year a small frame house of worship was erected at the corner of Cherry and Morgan streets.

Secret and Benevolent Societies

Bluffton is represented in all the leading orders of a secret and a benevolent nature, as well as in some which are not so well known,

but may be when another history of Wells County is written. The Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of Pythias, Red Men and the Tribe of Ben Hur have strong organizations; and "there are others." Although the Odd Fellows established themselves several months before the Masons and have organized all the degrees and bodies of their order at Bluffton, they are somewhat outnumbered by the latter. The Knights of Pythias, who were much later than either to come to the front, have a fine Home devoted both to official and social purposes.

The Masons

Bluffton Lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., was organized under dispensation February 3, 1853, with A. W. Sanford as worshipful master; O. P. Gilham, senior warden; and John Morgan, junior warden. The charter was granted May 25th following, when O. P. Gilham was installed as master, James M. McCleery as senior warden, and John Morgan as junior warden. Following Mr. Gilham as masters, for a period of sixty years, were the following: Amos Townsend, 1858-60; Newton Burwell, 1860-61; Amos Townsend, 1861-64; Thomas L. Wisner, 1864-66; Amos Townsend, 1866-67; Thomas L. Wisner, 1867-69; J. Sharle Wisner, 1869-September 18, 1870 (died in office); James W. Spake, A. Townsend and William Bassett, who filled the chairs as pro tem. masters until December, 1870; Newton Burwell, 1870-71; Jacob J. Todd, 1871-72; Thomas L. Wisner, 1872-74; Jere North, 1874-76; Jacob J. Todd, 1876-79; Amos Townsend, 1879-80; Jere North, 1880-81; James R. Bennett, 1881-83; Cyrene Warner, 1883-85; James W. Spake, 1885-87; James H. Cliffton, 1887-89; C. M. Miller, March-December, 1889; James P. Hale, 1889-91; C. M. Miller, 1891-93; Elmore Y. Sturgis, January-December, 1894; Horace L. Wisner, 1894-95; William A. Marsh, 1895-97; Samuel P. Roush, 1897-99; Joseph S. DeLong, 1899-1900; Samuel P. Roush, 1900-01; Charles E. Sturgis, 1901-02; Harry Lewis, 1902-04; Samuel E. Hitchcock, January-December., 1904; William W. Weisell, 1904-05; Herman W. Thoma, 1905-07; Charles A. Studabaker and Frank Ashbaucher (pro tem.), 1907-08; William H. Eichhorn and Samuel E. Hitchcock, 1907-10; Frank E. Ehle, 1910-11; William R. Barr, 1911-12; John A. Park, 1912-13; Grant Pyle, 1913-14; Harry B. Wiltse, 1914-16; T H. Koontz, 1916-17. Mr. Bennett, who served the lodge as worshipful master over thirty-six years ago, is still living as well as the following past masters: Cyrene Warner, James H. Clifton, Charles M. Miller, Elmore Y. Sturgis, Horace L. Wisner, William A. Marsh, Samuel P.

Roush, Joseph S. DeLong, Charles E. Sturgis, Harry Lewis, Samuel E. Hitchcock, William W. Weisell, Herman W. Thoma, Charles A. Studabaker, William H. Eichhorn, Frank E. Ehle, William R. Barr, Grant Pyle and Harry B. Wiltse. The lodge has a present membership of 250, with the following in office: Thomas H. Koontz, worshipful master; Ned R. Conwell, senior warden; Edward E. Sunier, junior warden; Herman W. Thoma, treasurer; Hoy H. Nartman, secretary; Charles V. McKinney, senior deacon; Redford A. Cherry, junior deacon; Elmore Y. Sturgis, senior steward; Theodore Eddington, junior steward; Samuel McCleery, tyler.

Bluffton Chapter No. 95, R. A. M., was instituted September 19, 1876, the following officers having been appointed under dispensation of the preceding day: T. L. Wisner, high priest; W. B. Miller, king; W. W. Angel, scribe. A charter was granted October 19th. The foregoing officers were named in it, and they served until December 29, 1876, when T. L. Wisner was elected high priest; D. E. Bulger, king; E. M. Cook, scribe; Jere North, C. H.; J. J. Todd, P. S.; J. W. Zehrung, R. A. C.; W. J. Craig, M. 3d. V.; W. W. Angel, M. 2d. V.; G. T. Kocher, M. 1st. V.; S. Oppenheim, treasurer; H. L. Wisner, secretary; M. M. Bassett, guard. Within the following decade the following served as high priests of the chapter: Horace L. Wisner, J. J. Todd, J. P. Hale and James H. Clifton. Besides the first and the last mentioned, the living high priests of the chapter are Cyrene Warner, James R. Bennett, Charles M. Miller, Albert Oppenheim, Samuel E. Hitchcock, Harry Lewis, Herman W. Thoma, Frank E. Ehle and E. Y. Sturgis. The chapter has (fall of 1917) a membership of 160, with these officers: Frank E. Ehle, M. E. H. P.; J. Park Elliott, E. K.; Samuel E. Hitchcock, treasurer; Henry B. Wiltse, secretary; Ralph W. Rinear, P. S.; James B. Krill, R. A. C.; George E. Mosiman, M. 3d. V.; George L. Arnold, M. 2d. V.; George L. DeHaven, M. 1st. V.; Fred A. Wiecking, G.

Bluffton Council No. 63, R. & S. M., was chartered October 20, 1892, has a membership of about 115, and is officered as follows: J. Park Elliott, I. M.; Frank E. Ehle, D. I. M.; C. A. Breece, P. C. of W.; Herman W. Thoma, T.; F. K. Sale, R.; Ed. A. Sunier, C. of G.; Ralph Rinear, steward; S. E. Hitchcock, sentinel. The past illustrious masters of the council have been: Cyrene Warner, Horace L. Wisner, Alfred F. Bly, James P. Hale, Samuel P. Roush, Charles M. Miller, Herman W. Thoma, Wilbur W. Oman, Samuel E. Hitchcock, C. M. Miller, William H. Eichhorn, Harry Lewis, Elmore Y. Sturgis and J. P. Elliott.

There are 120 members in Bluffton Commandary No. 38, K. T.,

Modern Bridges at Bluffton

the officers of which in 1917 were as follows: William Weisell, E. C.; George E. Mosiman, G.; William L. Kiger, C. G.; Frank E. Ehle, S. W.; F. K. Sale, J. W.; George L. Arnold, E. P.; Elmore Y. Sturgis, Treas.; Harmon H. Skiles, Rec. The past eminent commanders were as follows: Jacob J. Todd (deceased), Edwin C. Vaughn, Cyrene Warner, Ferdinand F. Boltz, James P. Hale (deceased), Emanuel E. Mosiman, Samuel P. Roush, William H. Eichhorn, Louis C. Davenport, Thomas F. Hoffer, Samuel E. Hitchcock, W. L. Kiger, William R. Barr, Allen P. Smith, Charles M. Miller, Ernest Wiecking, Dell Locke, John G. McCleery and Herman W. Thoma.

Crescent Chapter No. 48, O. E. S., was chartered April 14, 1881, and up to 1917 its past worthy matrons had been Caroline Davenport, Mary E. Mason, Mary J. Todd, Delia W. Hale, Maggie K. Wisner, Maggie McCleery, Lavina North, Emma Dailey, Jennie Warner, Martha North, Jennie Miller, Harriet Hoffer, Stella Deam, Amelia Baumgardner, Lizzie Ashbaucher, Anna Sturgis, Jessie Stine, Emma Thoma, Nannie Rinear, Lettie Miller and Anna Sturgis. The chief officers of the chapter serving in 1917, until the annual election in December of that year, were: May Koontz, W. M.; T. H. Koontz, W. P.; Harriett McKinney, A. M.; Sallie C. Sawyer, Sec.; Julia Duglay, Treas.; Marguerite Walmer, Cond.; Archie Conwell, A. Cond.; Sarah Hiester, C.; Stella Deam, M. The members in the chapter number about 170.

Odd Fellowship in Bluffton

The history of Odd Fellowship in Wells County dates back to October 6, 1852, when E. K. Bascom, Adnah Hall, Charles Smith, Lew A. Price and Dr. Charles T. Melsheimer met to organize, under authority of the Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana. That body granted them a charter under the name of Bluffton Lodge No. 114, I. O. O. F., which was instituted at the date named in the second story of what became known as the Wood Building on East Market Street. The first officers elected were: A. K. Bascom, N. G.; A. Hall, V. G.; Charles T. Melsheimer, Sec.; Lew A. Price, Treas. The first representative to the Grand Lodge was Past Grand C. T. Melsheimer who was appointed July 1, 1854. The local lodge has flourished, as have the other bodies of the order. Patriarchal Encampment No. 141 was chartered May 15, 1876, and was instituted with the following officers: Samuel L. Dailey, C. P.; James B. Plessinger, H. P.; James W. Kenagy, S.; C. I. Kline, G. W.; Charles Shaffer, J. W.; F. N. Kellogg, Treas. Patriarchal Militant, Uniform Degree, Camp No. 12, was

chartered March 31, 1883, and J. B. Plessinger was elected commander. There is also a Daughters of Rebekah Lodge (No. 83) which was instituted at Bluffton March 27, 1872. Prior to that date the degree of Rebekah was conferred upon members of the third degree and their wives by the subordinate lodge.

The present encampment has a membership of 220, with the following officers: Chief Patriarch, Allen Sheldon; High Priest, Elza McAffee; Senior Warden, Perry Addington; Junior Warden, Claude Cole; Scribe, Uriah Rahrer; Treasurer, Edward Markley.

The Patriarchs Militant, with a membership of 45, are officered as follows: Captain, Adolph Witzeman; Lieutenant, Henry Gilliam; Ensign, Sherman Bell; Clerk, C. A. Brunn; Accountant, Edward Markley.

Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters

As noted, the Knights of Pythias have a strong organization, which was instituted February 16, 1881, with C. M. France as its first past chancellor and W. C. Stockton as chancellor commander. The Pythian Sisters have also been organized for a number of years, and the combined Home of the order, corner of Washington and Marion streets, is comfortable, conveniently located and tasteful in outward appearance, as well as handsomely furnished. The original building was a large residence purchased in 1908. It was remodeled and re-frescoed and a handsome lodge hall added at a cost of $4,000. The Knights of Pythias Lodge is 92, and the title of the Sisters' organization is Royal Temple No. 24. The lodge numbers more than 370 members and its present elective officers are as follows; Edgar Harrell, M. of W.; Aaron L. Musselman, C. C.; Theo. V. Harsh, V. C.; Ray O. Snyder, Prel.; W. W. Rogers, M. of Ex.; George P. Becker, M. of F.; Harry Harvey, M. at A.; R. O. Stiles, I. G.; George Burhner, O. G.

Royal Temple No. 24 has about 230 members.

The Elks and Their Clubhouse

The Elks, a very strong organization, are represented by Bluffton Lodge No. 786, and they have a large and elegant Club House on Main Street near the business center.

The Bluffton Lodge No. 786, B. P. O. E., was instituted on July 9, 1902 under the direction of District Deputy Bayard Gray, of Frankfort, Indiana, by Hartford City Lodge No. 625 with E. E. Cox, of

Hartford City presiding as Grand Exalted Ruler, pro tem. On the night of institution the following Elks were admitted on dimit from other lodges: M. H. Ormsby, Frank S. Smith, W. A. Shumaker, E. B. Edmonds, Frank E. Ehle, Frank Runyan, T. H. Gutelius, James A. McBride, Paul Herman. The following were initiated as charter members: J. S. Dailey, E. C. Vaughn, Sam Bender, J. H. C. Smith, C. E. Sturgis, Hugh Dougherty, S. C. Reid, Will Smith, Fred Plessinger, W. D. Mason, J. C. Hatfield, L. C. Davenport, Dan Lanigan, F. J. Tangeman, Levi Mock, S. P. Roush, Clem Stair, W. H. Eichhorn, Harry Swisher, J. V. East, E. R. Horton, C. T. Kain, George L. Saunders, Herman Wiecking, M. A. Stout, M. Long, R. F. Cummins, Ralph Strow, Hugh Kapp, E. L. Murray, R. A. Brown, J. S. Gilliland, Joseph Rose, George L. Arnold, W. W. Weisell, Jr., F. C. Dailey, R. W. Stine, Joseph Burns, Louis Severin, C. H. Plessinger, Thomas Flynn, A. R. Grove, Harry C. Evans, T. H. Koontz, W. D. Burgan, G. P. Sharp, B. A. Batson, Frank Ulmer, A. G. King, W. W. Greek, George D. Shigley, N. K. Todd, Earl Francis, W. L. Jones, A. R. Bair, R. S. Todd, W. I. Allison, C. C. Sixbey, Albert Oppenheim, J. A. Morris.

The following officers were the first to serve the lodge: Exalted Ruler, M. H. Ormsby; Esteemed Leading Knight, Frank Runyan; Esteemed Loyal Knight, T. H. Gutelius; Esteemed Lecturing Knight, F. C. Dailey; Secretary, C. E. Sturgis; Treasurer, F. E. Ehle; Tyler, J. A. McBride; Trustees, W. H. Eichhorn, Hugh Kapp and J. S. Gilliland; Esquire, Frank S. Smith; Inner Guard, W. A. Shumaker; Chaplain, J. H. Smith.

The lodge was instituted in the Odd Fellows lodge hall and for the first year or two held its meeting in the K. of P. lodge room in the McFarren block at Main and Market streets, maintaining club rooms at the same time in the quarters over the Arnold feed store on Market Street. Later the lodge and club rooms were combined with quarters on the second and third floors of the Grand Theater Building. Later the lodge assimilated the membership of the Commercial Club and moved into the Commercial Club's quarters over the News office on West Market Street. The present lodge home on South Main Street was erected in 1912 at a cost of $25,000 and was dedicated in the spring of 1913.

The following past exalted rulers of Bluffton Lodge are still identified with that body as its representatives before the Grand Lodge of the order: C. E. Sturgis, C. H. Plessinger, N. K. Todd, Clem Kain, E. B. Edmonds, Del Locke, F. J. Tangeman, H. R. Swisher, M. K. Williamson, O. W. Baumgardiner and W. H. Eichhorn.

The present officers (April 1, 1918 to April 1, 1919) are as follows: Exalted Ruler, George Mock; Esteemed Leading Knight, Paul E. Painter; Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Lloyd Sleppy; Esteemed Loyal Knight, D. O. North; Secretary, Harry B. Starr; Treasurer, F. C. Waugh; Tyler, F. R. Curtis and Trustees, J. L. Snyder, F. J. Tangeman and H. R. Swisher.

Other Lodges, Tents, Hives, Camps, etc.

Other secret, social and benevolent organizations at Bluffton: the Eagles, Aerie No. 899; the Moose, Lodge No. 242; the Knights of the Maccabees, Bluffton Tent No. 163 and the Ladies, Asphalt City Hive No. 132; the Modern Woodmen of America, Camp No. 11,367, the Red Men, Minnetonka Tribe, No. 82, and the Daughters of Pocahontas, No. 20; and the Tribe of Ben Hur, Court No. 7. All of these societies have special fields of activities, more details of which would have been given had the officers who have them in their keeping been more generous in responding to requests for information.

CHAPTER XXII

VILLAGE OF OSSIAN

The Founders of Ossian—John T. Glass—The Craigs—The Hatfields—First Township Schools—Industrial Ups and Downs—Ossian Schools in the Making—The Telephone and the Local Press—Other Public Utilities—The Farmers State Bank—The Presbyterian Church—Methodism in Jefferson Township—Bethel United Brethren Church—Churches Near Ossian—Local Lodges.

In the northeastern part of Wells County, on the line of the Fort Wayne, Lake Erie & Western Railroad, is the Village of Ossian, the second community in that political division of Eastern Indiana, in commercial and trade importance. It probably has somewhat less than a thousand people, but is, nevertheless, enterprising and influential as a substantial body of citizens representing the banking, trade, social, educational and religious center of quite an area of prosperous and developing country. One of its typical manifestations of firm standing in the agricultural community of which it is the nucleus is the large grain elevator owned and managed by Steifel & Levy. Ossian has a well managed bank, a good school, and several growing churches; so that it possesses all the best elements of a desirable residence town where old, young, middle-aged, and all in the intermediate stages, may live comfortably and prosper in body, mind and religious manifestations.

The Founders of Ossian

As a really reliable community, Ossian dates from 1869, when the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad was built through the county, although it was not in complete operation until the following year. But thirty years before that decisive event was brought to a head, the country around what is now the village commenced to be settled. The advance agents of these pioneers were Robert and William Craig, John Davis, John Snyder, James Ferguson and Levi

Young, who came to the locality in 1837-38. William Craig soon had his family from the East with him. At this time and into the early '40s, the few who had ventured into the locality went to Fort Wayne for their supplies. Then Levi Young was the only resident upon the present site of Ossian, and in 1845 he was joined by John T. Glass, a Wayne County (Ohio) bachelor of twenty-nine, who married into the Hatfield family within the following year. He was the first mer-

Street Scene

chant of the little settlement, and as such, as well as for what he afterward accomplished, is entitled to more than passing notice.

John T. Glass

When Mr. Glass first came to the neighborhood, it is said that his only errand was to assist his brother in settling in the new country. In 1840 each had purchased half a section of land in the neighborhood. At that time there were no settlers in the immediate vicinity of the Glass claims. The wild woods were full of game; the pea vines were very high, and not a domestic animal could be found in the neighborhood. The Hatfield family lived near the south line of what is now Jefferson Township, and there the strangers were made welcome, housed and fed. The uninviting prospect was not such as to inspire the brothers to remain, and they returned to Pennsylvania. Not until 1845 did John T. Glass return to Wells County. Jonathan Eddy, Amos Schoonover and Mrs. Mary Wallace, with their families, had

moved in, and altogether they comprised all the families in the neighborhood. Mr. Glass had erected a cabin and a milk house on his land. The cabin was 22 by 18 feet and two stories in height, and was completed for occupancy, except the floor, at a cost of $16. It was built by Abram and John Fulton. At that time it was the best cabin in the neighborhood, having three windows and a good clapboard roof. Mr. Glass was the first man to purchase stock in the township, beginning the business soon after he settled there. In 1845 he paid from one-half to three-quarters of a cent gross for live stock, and the farmers of whom he bought at that figure allowed him to guess at the weight of the hogs and cattle, as there were no scales in the neighborhood. Notwithstanding that advantage, he and his brother put in the first stock scales in the northern part of the county in 1856. He had a good retail trade with Fort Wayne butchers, and furnished the money that paid for the first car of stock ever shipped over the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne line from that city. The prices paid for hogs and sheep from 1845 to 1855 were as follows: The first year for dressed pork 1½ cents, purchased from John Studabaker, the Bluffton packer. The few sheep which were in the country averaged about a dollar per head. Good steers brought $10. A first-class farm horse brought from $30 to $40. Wheat was worth from 40 to 50 cents, and corn 16 or 17 cents per bushel.

After spending one summer in the woods and trading successfully, Mr. Glass concluded that it would improve his circumstances for him to have a permanent housekeeper. On December 24, 1846, he therefore married Miss Margaret Hatfield, and his was the second marriage ceremony in the township. The young couple commenced housekeeping in the $16 cabin. The husband was not strong physically and the giant oaks on the home place were felled by other hands than his. But he managed his farm and his stock trade wisely, his wife made his home cheerful and brought children to him to complete the fireside life, and happiness, comfort and final prosperity were his. The old cabin was replaced by a large two-story frame mansion, and fine cattle and other stock crowded his big barns and grazed over his broad fields. Mr. Glass engaged in the live stock business almost half a century, and became one of the most extensive purchasers in Eastern Indiana, buying of almost every farmer in Wells, Adams, Jay, Allen and Blackford counties.

The opening of the Glass store in 1845 was the sign of coming growth. A general store, however modest, is always the nucleus for a settlement; and it certainly was not always convenient to take a jaunt to Fort Wayne for sugar, coffee, flour, pork, "et ceteras."

Even in the following year, the promise of a future town seemed so good that William Craig, John Ogden and 'Squire LeFever laid out Ossian and advertised a sale of lots. Murray and Bluffton, a few miles south, were already in the running as ambitious villages; but what mattered that! Ossian finally got the better of Murray, as we all know.

The Craigs

The Craigs were thrifty, persistent Scotch people, and were held in high esteem. As stated, William was part proprietor of the original town and obtained substantial standing as a farmer, merchant and citizen. The Craigs made a permanent location in Jefferson Township July 12, 1838, where the parents remained until death. Mr. Craig well remembered the first train of cars that ever passed over a line of railroad in Michigan. The date was July 4, 1838, he being at that time in his fifteenth year. The train left Detroit and stopped at Ypsilanti, that being the terminus of what is now the Michigan Central. The farm upon which the Craig family settled was afterward owned by Warren Mills. The father erected the second log cabin in Jefferson Township in the autumn of 1837. Robert Craig, a brother of William, came with his wife the same year, and the brothers entered adjoining tracts. The cabin of Robert being first completed for occupancy made his the first actual settlement in the township. He moved with his family to Illinois a few years later. The father was the first naturalized citizen of Jefferson Township and was one of the best known men in the county. His death occurred in 1863 and his wife survived him eight years.

William Craig married Margaret, daughter of Robert and Mary A. (Stout) McConnell, natives of New Jersey, in which state Mrs. Craig was born October 4, 1827. Their marriage occurred April 11, 1850, at the home of the bride's parents in Jefferson Township. The young couple began their domestic life on a farm. During his most active life Mr. Craig was a merchant of Ossian, but subsequently retired with sufficient means to make him independent.

The first election held in the township was at the house of William Craig. Samuel Saul Weston was elected justice of the peace and J. R. Zepever, township clerk. Robert Burns, the poet, was a near neighbor of Mr. Craig's grandparents, and Mr. Craig was born in the neighborhood and was familiar with the scenes pictured in some of his most famous poems.

Ossian and neighborhood felt the stimulus of the Fort Wayne Plank Road, which was begun in 1850 and afterwards completed, and

the standing of the town on the county map was further recognized when the railroad was first surveyed in 1854 and it was made a station on the paper line. It waited fifteen years for the realization, but, as time goes, that was another small matter. It happened, also, that when the rails were laid to Ossian in 1869 David Craig, a son of William, one of the town proprietors had the honor of driving the third spike used on the ties in Wells County.

The Hatfields

As the Craigs may be said to be specially identified with the material development of the Ossian neighborhood, the Hatfields are credited with having accomplished fundamental results connected with its growth in educational and religious ways. They were of the famous English family of Hatfields and their inclinations were doubtless largely inherited. The stock from which sprung the Wells County branch was planted in Wayne County, Ohio, and in 1838 Adam Hatfield, Jr., with his wife, Martha Kirkpatrick, and their family, settled in Jefferson Township, three miles north of Murray, upon a tract of three quarter sections of land which he had previously entered. A rude log cabin was erected and during the winter a plat of ten acres was cleared for planting in the spring. Adam Hatfield was one of the early officials of the township and served in several official capacities. He was a man of great force of character, although his education was limited. He was a whig and a stalwart abolitionist. Both himself and wife were members of the Presbyterian Church before they came to the county, and they may be termed the parents of that faith in Wells County. The first Presbyterian services in the county were held in their house, Rev. Isaac A. Ogden officiating. The church was organized by a committee of the Presbytery, and Rev. John H. Russ was the first pastor. The death of Mrs. Martha Hatfield occurred in 1840, and her remains were interred in the old Henry Miller Cemetery, the first burying-ground in the northern part of the county. Later, they were disinterred and deposited in the Murray Cemetery. Adam Hatfield afterward married Mrs. Elizabeth Steward, a widow, with whom he passed the remainder of his life. He died in 1848, aged fifty-four years.

First Township Schools

The school taught by Miss Margaret Hatfield was the first to be organized in Jefferson Township, and was superintended by the three

trustees, Levi Young, J. R. LeFever and John Ogden, who were elected in 1841. They appointed Miss Hatfield to teach what is known as the Craig School. She was followed by Isaac Hatfield, Joseph LeFever and Dr. William Johnston.

The first school opened in the Town of Ossian was taught by Robert M. Johnston, during 1850, being opened in the kitchen of one of the settlers and was located near the site of what was afterward the residence of Walter Craig. In the following year (1851) the first public school was erected near what is now Doctor Metts' office. Mr. Johnston was also engaged to teach that school in 1851-52. His successor was Miss Mary Cartwright, who subsequently married Milo J. Gorrell.

So first one thing and then another appeared among the essentials of real growth, and at the commencement of the Civil war Ossian probably numbered 200 inhabitants and several stores. By this time the rude village schoolhouse of logs had been replaced by a frame building which was then listed among the village improvements, but which some years afterward was being used as a shed on the property of one of the well-to-do townsmen. But the little frame house was outgrown in the late '60s and a two-story building erected.

Long before the war a Baptist and two Methodist societies had been organized to meet the natural demands of a moral and intelligent community, and midway in the Civil war period the Masons had organized their lodge. Soon afterward (in 1864) the first flour mill was erected at Ossian by Woodward & Rupright.

Industrial Ups and Downs

Various industries commenced to look toward Ossian after the completion of the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad, especially those devoted to wood manufactures. In 1872 a mill was erected near the depot for the manufacture of lumber, shingles, lath and mouldings. The first industry in that line, however, was a stave and heading factory, which was completed in 1870, burned two years afterward, and subsequently rebuilt. It was owned at one time by H. Hatfield. But with the clearing of wooded lands and the consequent withdrawal of available sources of raw material from the local factories they were eventually discontinued, with hundreds of their kind in the middle western states, as Indiana was then classified. Then followed the experiments connected with the manufactures based on products of the soil. The Ossian Creamery was a fair success for a time, although it was founded in the hopes that the farmers of the

county would turn to dairying and thereby insure the manufacturer a steady supply of milk; but instead they became more and more wedded to the idea of raising cattle and hogs upon which they could realize more readily than on milch cows. The somewhat famous Climax butter also melted away with the creamery project. But the grain elevator enterprise endured and developed. In 1890 the Hatfields and T. A. Doan built a fair-sized elevator near the switch-track and Ossian has never since been without good accommodations for storing and handling grain.

Ossian Schools in the Making

In 1878 a two-story schoolhouse was erected at a cost of $5,000 by John B. Woods, contractor, and James Gorrell, trustee. Prof. P. A. Allen, Bluffton's superintendent of schools, was the first principal in this first brick schoolhouse to be built in Ossian. After being occupied for twenty years, it was condemned in 1898, and two years later it was rebuilt and a large northern addition made to the original structure, making the entire school building a modern schoolhouse of eight rooms. When the local system was in the formative period Professor Allen and his successor as principal, David H. Swaim, for years editor of the Bluffton News and Chronicle, were mainly influential in grading and organizing the schools. Charles Pepe is the present superintendent.

Among the pioneer teachers of Ossian were, besides those already mentioned, Jacob J. Todd, Miss Maggie Hawkins, A. B. Cartwright, Mrs. Rena Howard and Mrs. Mary Wilmington. Of a somewhat later generation of teachers whose labors are specially identified with the old "two-story frame," were J. B. Donaldson, Serepta (Metts) Worley, S. N. Vail, Nellie (Rankin) Baker, William Mygrants, R. Houser, Lizzie J. N. Johnston, Joe (Metts) Walmer, Ida (Johnston) Emmanuel and May (Gorrell) Swaim.

The Telephone and the Local Press

Ossian has had the benefit of a local newspaper for many years. The first newspaper to be established there was a rank failure. It (The Ossian Weekly Telephone) lasted only a few months in the middle of the '80s. Its brief existence was passed at a time when the telephone was a young invention. It had reached Ossian from the outside world and through the Bell Telephone Company, in 1882, but it was many years before it had been adopted locally and was anything

more than "long distance." Then James H. Keefer came into the field both of newspaperdom and the local telephone system. In December, 1890, he commenced to issue the News, which he conducted successfully until its suspension in 1914. In February, 1896, he built a private telephone line between his newspaper office and residence; and then the railroad agent, the merchants and others woke up to the advantages of a local system. In the summer of 1899 Roe Brothers, representing the Central Union Telephone Company, established a local exchange, giving their subscribers also the privilege of long-distance communication; since which time the telephone has been one of Ossian's most valued public utilities.

Other Public Utilities

In 1895 the Village Board of Trustees bought a chemical engine as a means of protection against fire, the water supply being cisterns or reservoirs placed at strategic points within the corporate limits. Fuel and light are supplied by the Fort Wayne Gas Company, with which arrangements were perfected in 1896, by which natural gas could be drawn from the 12-inch main of the system controlled by that corporation.

The present representative of the local press is the Ossian Journal, which was founded in April, 1914, by B. F. Sprunger. Two years afterward the enterprise was purchased by those who still own and conduct it, W. E. Hostetler & Company.

The Farmers State Bank

Another institution of a semi-public character, young, but necessary to the well-being of the village, is the Farmers State Bank. It was founded in November, 1912, by the following who are still in office: E. W. Dyar, president; L. M. Springer, vice president; A. A. Melching, cashier. It has a capital of $25,000; surplus and undivided profits, $5,000; average deposits, $175,000.

The Presbyterian Church

The veteran of all the churches in Ossian is easily the Presbyterian, now in its seventy-ninth year. As stated, it was originally known as the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, and was organized June 10, 1840, at the house of Adam Hatfield. Its first members numbered twenty and were all received by letter. The first pastor was Rev.

John H. Russ, who did not long remain at that time, although the records seemed to show that he held the pastorate from 1843 to 1845. In 1846 Joseph Gorrell and Adam Hatfield secured the services of Rev. Wilson M. Donaldson, who was pastor of the Pleasant Ridge Church for thirty years and founded the society on the strength of his character and spiritual faithfulness. In 1847 the first house of worship was completed in the form of a small log building about two miles and a half southwest of town. This gave place in 1867 to a plain frame church accommodating about four hundred people and completed, of course, in the long and productive ministry of Mr. Donaldson. This second house of worship was located in Ossian, but, although the old Pleasant Ridge building was vacated, the society was not known as the Ossian Presbyterian Church until the spring of 1876, or during the concluding year of Mr. Donaldson's ministry. In 1877 Rev. John Mitchell assumed the pastorate, and his successors have been as follows: Rev. J. P. Lloyd, 1881-83; Rev. M. M. Lawson, 1883-92; Rev. Edwin Craven, 1892-97; Rev. Edward Campbell, 1897-1900; Rev. E. P. Gilchrist, 1900-03; Rev. C. E. Combrink, 1903-09; Rev. W. E. Hunter, 1909-12; Rev. Frank K. Baker, since 1912. During the pastorate of Rev. E. P. Gilchrist, in 1902, the handsome brick church which is now the home of the society was occupied. Its present membership (fall of 1917) is 300.

Methodism in Jefferson Township

Methodism took root in Jefferson Township as early as 1848 and the Ossian Circuit was organized two years later. Its history in the neighborhood of Ossian for a period of forty years is thus presented in a well-authenticated sketch: "We find the territory that now embraces the Ossian Circuit was included in the Saint Mary's Mission on October 30, 1848, the earliest date of Methodism in this section of the country. The Mission included all the territory south of Fort Wayne and north of the Wabash River (and was) supposed to embrace a part of Adams, Huntington and Whitley counties.

"The Ossian Circuit was organized in September, 1850, with Ossian as its head. The Prospect Society was among the classes that entered into the formation of the circuit. The boundaries of the circuit were defined so as to embrace about all St. Mary's Mission outside of Fort Wayne. The boundaries of the circuit have been changed from time to time until the present boundary marks its limits, which is properly the county line between Wells and Allen counties and westward the southern boundary being the Wabash River near Murray, thence

east and west, leaving the boundaries about all in the north part of the county. The Ossian Society was organized in 1851, and worshiped in the schoolhouse and dwelling houses until 1853, when the first church was completed. Rev. J. W. Foughty was the first class leader.

"The Prospect Society was organized September 30, 1848, with William Cotton, now deceased, as leader. Services were held in the dwelling houses of John A. Lepper and Simon Krewson and in the school house (which was, it might be mentioned, for two years the extra room of the cabin home of Simon Krewson. A log church was built about 1853, which was the house of worship until 1861, when the present church house was erected.

"The Emmaus Society was organized in 1876, with Robert W. Hall, now deceased, as leader. They worshiped in the schoolhouse until the present church edifice was completed. This society was a part of the Sheldon Circuit until 1881 when it was attached to Ossian.

"The Uniondale Society was first organized in 1884 and attached to the Markle Circuit, but in 1885 it was attached to the Ossian Circuit. The services were held in the Lutheran Church of Uniondale until September, 1886, when the society was abandoned. This society was again organized January 13, 1883, and the services were held in the Lutheran Church until December, when the present church building was completed.

"The first parsonage house was built in 1852. The second house was erected in 1866. To this there was built a wing in 1877."

Since the above history of the church was written changes in the circuit have been made until now the Ossian and Prospect churches are the only ones in this charge.

The pastors who served St. Mary's Mission were Revs. T. F. Palmer, 1848, and Dennis B. Clary, 1849. Among those called to the Ossian charge have been Revs. J. W. Miller, Almon Greenman, W. S. Birsh, James Johnson, W. T. Smith, A. Andrews, A. Douglas, J. M. Mann, B. F. Armstrong, S. H. Clark, E. S. McNeal, J. T. Nash, T. Colclazer, J. H. Slade, O. D. Watkins, W. E. Curtis, L. Roberts, J. H. McMahin, J. M. Wolverton, J. M. Mann, Y. B. Meredith, N. Burwell, J. L. Ramsey, E. P. Church, J. A. Llewellyn, Henry Bridge, J. B. Alleman, S. C. Norris, C. M. Hollopeter and William E. Hamilton (present incumbent).

Bethel United Brethren Church

The Bethel United Brethren Church is probably about fifty years old and until 1901 belonged to what was known as the Auglaize Conference. In the records of that body there is no mention of the Bethel

Class at Ossian until 1869. From 1901 to the present the Bethel United Brethren Church has been in the St. Joseph Conference, as have all other bodies of that denomination in Adams and Wells counties north of the Wabash River. The successive pastors of the local church have been as follows: Revs. George Miller, 1869-71; D. J. Schenck, 1871-73; T. Coats, 1873-74; Merritt Miller, 1874-77; P. B. Williams, 1877-79; S. T. Mahan, 1881; D. A. Johnson, 1881-82; R. W. Wilgus, 1882-85; L. T. Johnson, 1885-86; D. W. Abbott, 1886-87; W. E. Bay, 1887-88; T. M. Harvey, 1888-89; R. W. Wilgus, 1889-90; H. C. Smith, 1890-91; J. N. Holmes, 1891-92; H. D. Meads, 1892-93; J. W. Lake, 1893-96; W. Z. Roberts, 1896-97; S. M. Leidy, 1897-98; W. H. Shepherd, 1898-99; D. M. Luttrell, 1899-1900; J. A. Kek, 1900-03; O. L. Richhart, 1903-04; M. V. Mullikin, 1904-06; I. N. Shilling, 1906-08; J. A. Farmer, 1908-09; J. L. Powers, 1909-11; H. C. Beauchamp, 1911-15; J. A. Sherrill, 1915-17; D. W. Zartman, since 1917. The membership of the present church in December, 1917, was about fifty.

Churches Near Ossian

There are also two churches within four miles of Ossian which are fairly strong, and one of them, at least, is quite well known to county history. El Hanan Presbyterian Church, three miles east and one mile north of town, was organized in the early '40s, and in 1845 a log church was built on a lot donated by Robert Ewell for religious and cemetery purposes.

The Emmaus (formerly Salem) M. E. Church was established four and a half miles southeast of Ossian, and a small frame building was erected for worship in 1876. For many years, also, the Olive Branch Baptist Church occupied a building three miles northeast of Ossian, the society having been organized prior to 1840.

Local Lodges

The chief lodges with headquarters at Ossian are the Ossian No. 297, Free & Accepted Masons; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 719, and the Knights of Pythias, No. 343. The Masons first organized in September, 1863, John P. Nash being their first worshipful master. J. I. Metts, James Gorrell, C. W. Beardsley, William B. Miller, James P. Swaim and William Stine also served as heads of the lodge in the early times. The Knights of Pythias organized in 1892, with thirty-four charter members, with W. A. Woodward as P. C. H. W. Beaty is now in office, the membership of the lodge late in the fall of 1917 being nearly 150.

CHAPTER XXIII

LIBERTY CENTER

John W. Rinear—Schoolhouse, the First Building—The Liberty Township High School—Local Pioneering—Liberty Center Deposit Bank—Baptist and Methodist Protestant Churches—Village of Today.

The village above named is so called because it is the geographical center of Liberty Township. It is also one of the central towns of Wells County and is a leading center for the live stock and grain trade of a large country district. The village is in the midst of a productive section devoted to the raising of sugar beets. The practical signs of such mentioned facts are extensive yards at Liberty Center for the handling of hogs and cattle and a large "beet dump" for the storing and shipping of that produce. The Studabaker Grain and Seed Company has also a good-sized elevator (capacity, 20,000 bushels) at this point. A grist mill is also in operation. These evidences of prosperity are reflected in the neat appearance of the town, and the additional fact that its banking facilities are fully adequate to all demands made by business men, farmers and householders. The village advances another good claim to leadership among the villages of the villages of the county. None has more complete educational advantages than Liberty Center; in fact, Superintendent Huyette has instanced its high school, completed in 1913, as the most modern in the county within his jurisdiction. Two churches and several lodges also confirm the social and religious character of the village.

John W. Rinear

If any one man may claim the right to the fatherhood of Liberty Center it is Hon. John W. Rinear, and a record of his earlier services as a farmer, a town-builder and a public man goes far toward covering the pioneer history of Liberty Center. Mr. Rinear, now a sturdy and typical American in comfortable circumstances, who has done so large a share in building the community in which he has long lived and

thrived, is an Ohio man, born near Cleveland, May 4, 1842. His grandparents had located in that city when his father was five years old. In Cleveland, also, his parents were married and resided there until 1847, when they moved to Huntington County, Indiana, and in 1854 to Liberty Township. John W. Rinear was then twelve years of age.

The region where the Rinear family settled at that time was covered with dense woods, but Charles Rinear, its head, was a powerful man physically, and his physique was backed by a brave spirit; so, with the assistance of the plucky lad and a splendid wife, he promptly commenced the task of clearing, cultivating and taming the 120-acre tract which he had purchased for a homestead. When the father died in 1887 and the mother in 1894, both more than seventy years of age, they had accomplished that task and much more. They had not only become prosperous in worldly goods, but had obtained a laudable standing in their home community.

To such faithful, sturdy parents John W. Rinear proudly acknowledges his indebtedness. He received his education in the common schools of Liberty Township until he was nineteen years of age, after which he saw fourteen months' service in the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and was invalided home with a bullet wound in his right arm.

On April 2, 1863, after returning from the war, Mr. Rinear was united in marriage to Miss Sarah C. First, a native of Liberty Township born in 1843. Her father, a Pennsylvanian, entered a tract of land in that part of Wells County in 1836 and commenced to reside thereon five years later. During his residence in the county he held every office in the township with the exception of assessor. During the last years of his patriarchal life, which advanced well toward the century mark, he lived with his daughter, Mrs. John W. Rinear, and had the distinction of being the only resident of Liberty Township who had retained the ownership of the land which he had originally secured from the Government.

For three years after his marriage Mr. Rinear rented and lived upon the farm of Doctor Melsheimer. In the meantime, having saved some money, he purchased a tract of forty acres of land which now forms a part of Liberty Center. He laid out the east half of the original plat on his land, which was then dense woods. He then threw up a log cabin 18 by 20 feet, and commenced life at that locality with a wife, a team of horses, a cow, a few shoats and other minor possessions. For the greater part of the purchase price of the land he borrowed money, but no note was ever defaulted and payment was sometimes

made before it became due. With the faithful help of his wife everything prospered.

In 1866 Mr. Rinear came into possession of his present farm, and on the 28th of December, of that year, was born his daughter, Hannah S., the first native child of Liberty Center. She is now the wife of John B. Funk, druggist and postmaster. In 1874 Mr. Rinear purchased twenty acres adjoining his place on the north. The railroad reached the locality in 1878, and in the same year he platted the east half of Liberty Center. He is now the oldest continuous resident of the place. Mr. Rinear was justice of the peace from 1873 to 1885; was in the mercantile business at the center in 1877-82, and during that period served as postmaster for three years. At the same time he continued his farming operations, and has a farm of 320 acres a mile east of Liberty Center which is not surpassed in Wells County. Both grain and live stock are raised. Besides he owns thirty-five acres of his old home place in town and resides in a large comfortable residence on Lot 1 of the original plat.

In 1894, at the session of the Democratic Joint Senatorial Convention of Wells and Huntington counties, Mr. Rinear was nominated for the State Senate, and subsequently elected by a large majority. During his term of service he was placed on such important committees as those of corporations, railroads, public health, banks, finance and county and township business. In June, 1899, he was appointed by the Circuit Court a member of the County Council, and has been repeatedly elected councilman-at-large, having served as chairman of that body for a period of twelve years. He was appointed a trustee of the Indiana Soldiers' Home at Lafayette by Governor Hanly in 1906, and by successive gubernatorial appointments has served continuously in that position, his present term expiring in April, 1921. During the entire period he has held the position of treasurer of the home. A mere enumeration of such facts indicates Mr. Rinear's high and substantial standing.

Schoolhouse, the First Building

"Resuming the thread of our discourse," as the stock phrase goes, Liberty Center was laid out by Messrs. Rinear and John Ernst on the 12th of November, 1878—the same year the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City Railroad went through that part of the county. Previous to that date there had been a schoolhouse at the Center for many years, and for a considerable time a store and two or three dwellings; but no collection of buildings which could be stretched to the dignity of a settlement.

The Liberty Township High School

The first log schoolhouse was erected on the site of the handsome Liberty Township High School of today. The second, built in the fall of 1859, was a frame building 24 by 30 feet. It was occupied both for school purposes and public meetings of all kinds until 1881, when a two-story brick schoolhouse was erected under the supervision of G. H. King. Quite early this became a leading educational center of the county, and normal schools were repeatedly conducted therein. The schoolhouse was improved radically as the years passed and demands became insistent, until several years ago it became evident that the time was ripe for erecting an edifice not only for present but future needs. The result was the $35,000 high school described in Superintendent Huyette's report. Henry Snyder, its principal, has 230 pupils enrolled under him, of whom 82 were in the high school department during the fall of 1917.

It would thus appear that a schoolhouse was the first thing to appear on the site of Liberty Center; and the crude log affair has grown into something fine, representative of progressive intelligence and a careful outlook for the future men and women of the community.

Local Pioneering

There are other first things, persons and events also worthy of note.

John W. Rinear, the longest a resident of Liberty Center, was the first justice of the peace at this point. During his term of office, twelve years, he married 104 couples. The next justice was Henry J. Johnson.

The first born at Liberty was Hattie S., daughter of John W. Rinear, and now the wife of John B. Funk. Having received a good education, previous to marriage, she taught a number of years in the public schools.

The first born male was Charles W., son of Samuel J. Jackson.

The first marriage was of X. N. Johnson to Mary E. Ernst; the first death was that of Mrs. Clark Morgan.

S. S. Jackson was postmaster at the Center before the town was platted.

J. W. Rinear, the first postmaster, afterward served until January 1, 1880.

Frank W. Garrett, who succeeded Mr. Rinear, afterward studied

medicine with Dr. John A. Morrison, the first physician, and himself commenced practice in 1882.

The earliest industries to be established appeared in 1879—the tile factory by Adams & Plank, and the sawmills built by Charles Cole and Jacob Jones. In 1882 G. H. King & Sons erected a flour mill, which adopted the roller system in 1887. Its successor, of comparatively late date, was the Garrett & Funk establishment.

Liberty Center Deposit Bank

The Liberty Center Deposit Bank was founded in 1907, with Frank W. Garrett as president and Ira E. Yelton as cashier. It speaks well for its management that there has been no change whatever since the establishment of the bank. The present capital of the institution is $25,000; surplus and undivided profits, $19,000; average deposits (in November, 1917), $175,000.

Baptist and Methodist Protestant Churches

The two local churches are the Baptist and the Methodist Protestant. The former is the oldest. The Baptists erected their first house of worship, a plain frame building, in 1869, and completed what was then a handsome brick church in 1884. The pastor now serving the society is Rev. Jesse Mitchell.

The Liberty Center Methodist Protestant Circuit has two classes—the Liberty Center class in the town of that name, and the Boehmer class three miles west and half a mile south of town. The Liberty Center class was organized by Rev. D. S. Boswell in February, 1882, in the high school building; the Boehmer class, by Rev. E. Robison, in March, 1886, at the Roberts schoolhouse. Liberty Center has had two church buildings, the first dedicated in February, 1888, and the second, in March, 1909. The local class has a present membership of 165. The Boehmer church was dedicated in November, 1888, and has a membership of 125. Since Rev. D. S. Boswell's time (1882-83), the following have served the Liberty Center Circuit: W. H. Fisher, W. H. Rogers, W. G. Callahan, E. Robison, J. H. Nehers, J. C. Macklin, A. G. Mendenhall, J. R. French, S. J. Jones, G. W. Bundy, L. Coomer, J. L. Barclay, S. S. Stanton, M. F. Illiff, J. L. Barclay, Hillis L. Avery, A. R. Corn, W. Smith Harper and B. M. Petty. Rev. W. S. Harper, who preceded the pastor now in charge of the circuit, is now a missionary, or field worker.

The people of Liberty Center are not strong supporters of lodges,

their school and church work occupying most of their time. The Odd Fellows, however, have made considerable headway, and there is also a Rebekah organization.

The Village of Today

The village, which now numbers more than four hundred people, enjoys good transportation facilities. It is on the steam line of the Toledo, St. Louis & Western and is also a station on the Marion & Bluffton Traction route. Aside from its live stock yards, elevator, grist mill, beet dump and other interests, Liberty Center has a boiler shop, a garage, three or four general stores, a hardware store, drug store, and perhaps other business houses not mentioned. It is, in fact, a desirable town in which to live.

CHAPTER XXIV

OTHER VILLAGES AND STATIONS

KEYSTONE—ITS CHURCHES—STATE FARMERS BANK—LUTHER TWIBELL, FOUNDER—NEIGHBORS SCARCE, WOLVES PLENTIFUL—UNSCIENTIFIC CROWDING—ARRIVAL OF FIRST COOK STOVE—PONETO—WORTHINGTON, FIRST VILLAGE—EARLY PONETO—THE CHALFANTS AND THE BANK—FARMERS STATE BANK—CHURCHES AT AND NEAR PONETO—ODD FELLOWS AND REBEKAHS—ZANESVILLE—CHURCHES OF LOCALITY—MARKLE, FORMERLY TRACY—STEPS IN PROGRESS—ITS STRONG POINTS—THE FARMERS AND TRADERS BANK—THE MARKLE JOURNAL—UNIONDALE—GEORGE C. DITZLER AND HIS SAWMILL—HENRY W. LIPKEY, MERCHANT, POSTMASTER, RAILROAD AGENT—ALSO, PRESIDENT OF THE BANK AND VILLAGE—THE PRESENT UNIONDALE—TOCSIN—MICHAEL C. BLUE—SAMUEL KUNKEL, OWNER OF ORIGINAL TOWN—GRAIN BUSINESS AND BANK ESTABLISHED—VERA CRUZ, A VETERAN VILLAGE—THE TOWN NOW—THE VITZES, FATHER AND SONS—OLD VILLAGE OF LANCASTER—MURRAY PLATTED—PETROLEUM—KINGSLAND—ROCKFORD—OTHER SMALL POPULATION CENTERS.

Keystone is one of the southern villages of the county, lying a few miles north of the Blackford line, on both the Lake Erie & Western Railroad and the line of the Union Traction Company of Indiana. It is south of the center of Chester Township. Until 1917, or for forty-five years after it was platted, Keystone depended upon Montpelier, Blackford County, for its banking accommodations, but its growth of late has made that arrangement no longer feasible, and the State Farmers Bank is now one of its active institutions. At Keystone is also one of the elevators in the chain owned by the Studabaker Grain & Seed Company (capacity, 15,000 bushels), and it has several well-stocked and well-managed stores. There are two religious bodies at Keystone, a modern school and other evidences of pronounced advancement usually found in typical American communities.

Its Churches

The Methodist Protestant Church, of which Rev. S. T. Sturgeon is pastor, was organized in 1883-84, with ten members. Revs. J. C. McLin and T. F. Ransopher were the first two clergymen to have charge of the Keystone Society. It was during the incumbency of the latter, in 1885, that the society erected its first house of worship.

The United Brethren Church, Rev. A. A. Ireland pastor, was organized in the winter of 1886 with about fifty members. Rev. E. Balduc was its first settled pastor.

The Friends, or Quakers, also have a society at Keystone, Rev. Frank Edwards having charge of their organization.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church, the headquarters of which were east of Keystone, was organized in the late '50s, and its first house of worship erected in 1875.

Soon after the town was platted in 1872 a schoolhouse was erected, the one now occupied having been built in 1896. Charles H. Markley is the principal at present writing (December, 1917).

State Farmers Bank

The State Farmers Bank of Keystone was organized in the summer of 1917 by the following: Simeon Crosby, president; J. A. Jarrett, first vice president; Frank Kirkwood, second vice president; Cecil Lockwood, cashier. In November of that year the capital of the bank was $25,000; surplus, $2,500; average deposits, $15,000.

Luther Twibell, Founder

Carrying out the prophecy that "the first shall be last," this place in the sketch of Keystone has been reserved for its founder, Luther Twibell. He was a Virginian, of Irish ancestry; was reared on a plantation and late in youth moved to Henry County, Indiana. In 1840, still before he had attained his majority, he accompanied his parents to Blackford County, traveling thence by team.

Luther Twibell remained with his parents until his marriage, in his twentieth year, on March 7, 1841. In the following October the young couple moved into Wells County, and purchased eighty acres of land, a portion of which was afterward platted as the site of Keystone. Young Mrs. Twibell was born in Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent, and it is supposed that the village was named as a tribute to her and the Keystone State of her nativity.

Neighbors Scarce, Wolves Plentiful

When Mr. and Mrs. Luther Twibell first settled in the locality on their 80-acre homestead, everything was very new. Human neighbors were scarce, but of wolves there were plenty. Wild game was also abundant. Here the young husband made his clearing and cut the logs with which he erected his first cabin and necessary farm buildings. All the milling was then done at Muncie, and there was no regular road thither. There were only four teams in what are now Chester and Harrison townships. It is known that Mr. Twibell was not fond of hunting and that he spent most of his time industriously clearing and improving his land. When he and his wife moved to the site of Keystone their cabin was raised in one day. The occupants moved in before even a hole was cut for the chimney, and the first fire was built in the middle of the room.

Unscientific Crowding

Upon the arrival of a new family, of course the most pressing act was to get its members under cover, especially if the weather was cold. At times those who were fortunate enough to have roofs over their heads were put to their wits' end to meet an unexpected influx. But each helped the other and "crowding" was the watchword. It is related that to meet such an emergency in the Keystone neighborhood, upon one occasion three families, comprising twenty-two persons, occupied a log house 16 by 18 feet. In those days, it was surely impossible to allow a scientific and sanitary number of cubic feet of breathing space for each person. So the Twibell cabin was raised one day and occupied the next, the center-piece being the dining table made by driving stakes in the ground and laying clapboards on top of them.

Arrival of First Cook Stove

An event in the household and entire neighborhood was the arrival of their first cook stove. It had been purchased by the two sons, William and David, who had sold the wheat they raised on a piece of land set apart as the origin of the stove fund. William M. Twibell, who was born on the old farm, is now in his seventy-first year, an honored resident of Keystone, and probably has never been as proud as when he and his brother brought that first stove into the neighborhood, earned from the proceeds of their wheat money. The people of

the village and vicinity have always had a tender place in their hearts for the Twibells, without whom they might not have had a Keystone at all.

Poneto

Poneto, the village on the Lake Erie & Western Railroad and the Muncie, Bluffton & Fort Wayne Traction line, is located in the extreme southwest corner of Harrison Township and the southeast corner of Liberty Township, about seven miles southwest of Bluffton. It has some 400 inhabitants and is incorporated. In the midst of a productive grain country, the large local elevator is controlled not by an outside corporation, but by a cooperative organization known as the Farmers Elevator Company. It also has a number of good stores and two banks.

Worthington, First Village

The village is a creature of the railroad, and was laid out by Simeon Tappy September 4, 1871. With Dr. H. Doster, he was chiefly instrumental in the location of the station at this point. Both raised money for the purpose and paid it out of their own pockets, and Mr. Tappy also donated land for the depot site. The latter was finally secured, in successful opposition to Wellsburg, across Rock Creek, to the north, which is consequently an abandoned point. It was first named Worthington Crossing, or Worthington, in honor of the superintendent of the railroad; but as it was afterward found that a postoffice in Indiana already had that name, it was rechristened Poneto in 1880.

Early Poneto

When the town was platted in 1871 the only building on the ground was Mr. Tappy's residence, and a sawmill owned by Dr. C. T. Melsheimer, which was afterward moved. The large brick business block, long so conspicuous, was originally built by John Hardwidge in 1881 and afterward enlarged. The S. M. King saw, planing and corn-feed mills were built in 1882-83. During that period Frank Courtney also brought his saw and planing mills to Poneto.

The Chalfants and the Bank

But the village did not reach a firm footing as a trade center until it ceased to rely upon Bluffton for its banking accommodations; and

it was the old Chalfant family which came to the rescue in that connection. Chads Chalfant, the grandfather of Abner, had planted the family in the southwest quarter of section 25, Harrison Township, in 1837, and the succeeding generations had increased the reputation of the family for thrift, honesty and ability. Reason, the son of Chads, inherited the estate, then greatly improved and increased in value, and in 1888 Abner, the son of Reason, succeeded to it. His management of the old-time properties also brought him large incomes, and he decided to give Poneto, in which he also had real estate interests, one of the prime necessities for its growth, a local bank. That institu-

Street Scene, Poneto

tion was organized as the Bank of Poneto. The present officers are: Abner Chalfant, president; S. C. Sheperd, first vice president; F. M. Buckner, second vice president; Robert Lee, cashier. Mr. Chalfant has resided in Bluffton since January, 1915.

Farmers State Bank

The Farmers State Bank was founded in March, 1912, with J. W. Cook as president; W. A. Popejoy, vice president, and Earl French, cashier. There has been no change in either the presidency or vice presidency; but Mr. French was cashier for only a few months, when he was succeeded by George Barrington, who held the position until July, 1917. Mr. Barrington was then followed in the cashiership by A. L. Musselman, the present incumbent. Following are the items

indicative of the financial status of the bank in December, 1917: Capital, $25,000; surplus and undivided profits, $4,000; average deposits, $110,000.

Churches at and Near Poneto

Poneto has had a number of churches, the First M. E., in charge of Rev. E. E. Wright, having still a substantial membership. A frame church building was completed in 1880. Among its earlier pastors were Revs. J. W. Paschall, Charles Bacon, J. C. McLin, Henry C. Myers, I. N. Rhodes, Henry Bridge, J. B. Cook and B. S. Holapeter.

The Reifftown M. E. Church, a few miles east of town, is also an old religious body, its house of worship being dedicated August 8, 1880. The United Brethren Church was organized at Poneto in 1877 and a frame meeting house was built in 1882. The society was discontinued some time ago. The Baptists, who also have no regular services, were first organized, locally, in 1880.

Odd Fellows and Rebekahs

The Odd Fellows have the strongest lodge in town, No. 752. It was organized June 30, 1899, with the following chief elective officers: L. A. Nutter, N. G.; W. J. Clark, V. G.; H. B. Sark, Secretary. During the twenty years of its lodge life the following have served as noble grands: L. A. Nutter, W. J. Clark, Hezekiah Doster, Samuel Henley, R. K. Johnson, F. M. Buckner, G. F. Mowery, H. B. Sark, W. R. Smith, David Ochsenrider, Daniel Jones, L. C. Nutter, H. A. Grove, R. F. Gavin, W. L. Schock, Charles Fuller, Karl Lee, John Hardwidge, O. W. Weinland, James Quick, George Hatfield, William Singer, D. E. Leist, Charles Mossburg, Hiram Davis, J. H. Ogalsbee, William Jones, Jr., Adam King, William King, Vincent Barrington, L. E. Carroll, H. H. Toms, R. B. Kunkel, R. A. Lee and Gay Jones. Officers now serving: Paul Oman, N. G.; Ray Kimes, V. G.; Karl Lee, secretary. The lodge now numbers more than 100 members, and is growing.

The auxiliary of the I. O. O. F., the Order of Rebekahs, is also organized at Poneto.

Zanesville

A village of over 300 people, Zanesville is cut by the line which separates Wells from Allen County. Although it has never been

favored with steam railroad communication, for some years it has been a station on the Terre Haute, Indianapolis & Eastern Traction route, and has all the required means of communication. The site of the town is on a high ridge skirted by Davis Creek. Its older portion was laid out March 4, 1849, by J. and L. Walker. It has a good school, the first substantial building devoted to that purpose being erected in 1876.

Churches of the Locality

The people of Zanesville have always endeavored to provide the best means available for the education of the younger generation. Neither have they been deficient in churches. The United Brethren effected the first permanent organization at the schoolhouse in 1855, and William Haverstock served as their class leader for many years. Their first church building, a little frame structure, which was erected in 1857, was afterward used as a carriage factory. A meeting house combined of wood and brick was built in 1884. The Church of God is also an old organization. Its members worshipped in the early years at private houses, the schoolhouse and the United Brethren meeting house. In 1868 they erected a house of worship. These are the strongest religious bodies now active in Zanesville, although the United Brethren have had a division in their ranks, the offshot being known as Radicals.

The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized at Zanesville in 1860, and endured for some years.

One of the first organizations of the United Brethren in the county was that known as the Eight Mile District Brethren Church, which was founded by Rev. J. H. Bowman, of Kansas, in 1833. Their meeting house was about three miles southwest of Zanesville; first pastor, Rev. W. M. M. Hamilton, and deacons, George A. G. Sonner and Ezekiel Roe.

Another pioneer in religious work was the Church of the Disciples, whose house of worship a mile southeast of the village was built in 1853. At a later period the German Baptists organized some two miles southwest and built a church in 1875.

It is evident that Zanesville is reenforced and buttressed about by churches, which is largely accounted for by the fact that its founders and many of those who have come after them have been Germans and German-Americans of a most pronounced religious type. That same fact may also explain the circumstance that the secret lodges have never obtained a strong foothold in the village, the time and strength

of its people being largely absorbed by their activities in connection with the churches and auxiliary societies. There are, however, both lodges of the Odd Fellows and the Masons, the latter (No. 517) having been chartered in May, 1875. At one time Zanesville had a newspaper, the Hoosier Advertiser and Printer, published by J. W. Keplinger. As a center of trade for a limited area, the village is supplied with a roller flour mill, of which Charles O. Keplinger is proprietor, and a bank with a fair average of deposits.

Markle, Formerly Tracy

Markle, which is on the border line between Wells and Huntington counties, is a well-built village of nearly 900 people, but only a small section of its eastern site lies within the limits of the former. The original town, known as Tracy, was platted as early as 1836, but it was still in a state of torpidity in 1850, when Dr. Joseph Scott, the first physician of the locality, also erected its first permanent residence.

Steps in Progress

Although within the succeeding twenty years or so the Curry tannery and a few other small industries were established, it was not until the narrow-gauge line which developed into the Chicago & Erie was completed between Huntington and Markle that the latter (still known as Tracy) was inspired with anything which could be called energy. Two years afterward, or in the late '70s, the town was incorporated as Markle. Soon afterward John Stults erected a saw and planing mill; other factories followed; a large stone and lime, feed and hay business was developed; additions were made to the original town, which expanded over the Wells County line, and Markle became one of the brisk small villages of Eastern Indiana. The Cincinnati, Bluffton & Chicago line at first added to its transportation advantages; but, although the latter is now "junk," permanent automobile 'bus lines have been established between Bluffton and Huntington, with Markle as the most important intermediate point.

Its Strong Points

Markle's strong points—and they can be dwelt upon only in a general way—are that it is the trading and banking center of a solidly prosperous country district; that it enjoys ready facilities for han-

dling grain and transporting all the natural products of the locality to the best markets; that its industrial plants include a large modern flour mill, an up-to-date creamery and a hard-wood manufactory; that it has an extensive establishment devoted to the handling and sale of eggs and poultry, including a packing house (its only important industry in Wells County); and that its churches and schools are supported as they should be by a thoroughly intelligent community; and, to cap and conclude all, that Markle has a newspaper which sets forth such advantages and others too numerous to mention, in a convincing

Bird's Eye View, Markle

and enthusiastic manner. Now, a few pertinent details, and this sketch is done.

The Farmers and Traders Bank

The Farmers and Traders was organized as a state bank November 30, 1903, with James W. Sales as president; Hugh Dougherty, vice president, and W. S. Smith, cashier. Its capital was $25,000. In December, 1904, Chester E. Wirt succeeded Mr. Smith as cashier, and in the following year R. W. Redding became vice president. R. C. McGuffey was chosen vice president in December, 1909, and D. B. Garber was named as cashier, to succeed Mr. Wirt, in January, 1913. Since December of that year Mr. McGuffey has acted as president and R. H. Fishbaugh as vice president of the bank. Its capital stock re-

mains at $25,000; surplus and undivided profits, $10,000; average deposits, $350,000.

The Markle Journal

The Markle Journal was founded in 1892 by W. W. Rogers. In 1911 it was purchased by D. C. Bichart and L. L. Rogers, and conducted by them under the firm name of Bichart & Rogers until the

Bird's Eye View, Uniondale

following year, when Mr. Rogers became its sole proprietor. In May, 1917, it was bought by H. F. Symonds, the present owner and editor.

The Schools

The management of the local schools has been most creditable to both the boards and the principals, and the substantial two-story brick building now occupied by the grammar grades and the high school is ornamental as well as decidedly useful. It was a remodeled structure completed in 1912 at a cost of $12,400. The principal of the Union School is J. M. Hughes. About 230 pupils are enrolled, of whom 93 were high school scholars in November, 1917.

Uniondale

Uniondale, a village of about 250 people, on the Chicago & Erie and the Cincinnati, Bluffton & Chicago railroads, is three miles west

of Kingsland and nine miles northwest of Bluffton. For many years it had the distinction of being headquarters of the largest sawmill in Wells County, built by George C. Ditzler and operated by him for many years. Mr. Ditzler and Henry W. Lipkey are, in fact, recorded as the founders of Uniondale.

George C. Ditzler and His Sawmill

Mr. Ditzler surveyed and platted the village, in 1882, as a station on the Chicago & Erie Railroad. He had sold his sawmill at Murray and as he had just taken a large contract from the old Chicago & Atlantic for supplying the railroad company with ties, bridge timbers and other building material, he leased two acres at the southwest corner of the Gardenour farm and there erected a new mill. He was soon employing fifty hands and a dozen teams, and before long it was the largest sawmill in Wells County, having a capacity of 15,000 feet. After its completion in May, 1882, Mr. Ditzler furnished all the building material required by the railroad for some distance either side of Uniondale. It afterward became a general merchant mill, as well as furnishing ties and timbers to several railroads, and turned out 2,000,000 feet of lumber annually. Mr. Ditzler's residence was the first one completed at Uniondale, and his mill sawed the lumber for it, as well as for all the other buildings constructed in the village while he remained at the head of the business. Uniondale still has a sawmill of good standing, the proprietor of which is Homer Harshman.

Henry W. Lipkey, Merchant, Postmaster, Railroad Agent

Henry W. Lipkey built and conducted the first store in Uniondale, and when a postoffice was established January 21, 1886, he was appointed postmaster. He was also appointed agent for the railroad company and perhaps held equal honors with Mr. Ditzler as "leading citizen." Mr. Lipkey opened his store shortly after the village was platted, and in November, 1883, formed a partnership with William Newhard. The latter afterward branched out into the grain business and built the first warehouse in town.

Also President of the Bank and Village

Mr. Lipkey has continued to develop as a merchant and a citizen and has invested the proceeds of his large business in various lines.

He is president of the Bank of Uniondale, of which Joshua A. Brickley is cashier. Messrs. Brickley and J. B. Miller also own and operate the grain elevator, and George Brickley is a manufacturer of cement blocks. The foregoing facts give an idea of the character of the local industries.

The Bank of Uniondale opened for business on December 5, 1908, with the following officers: H. W. Lipkey, president; P. E. Gilbert, vice president; J. A. Brickley, cashier. In June, 1917, it was reorganized as a state bank, it having been established as a private concern. At that time it assumed the name of the State Bank of Uniondale. Its capital stock has been increased from $10,000 to $25,000; surplus and undivided profits of $2,000; average deposits, $200,000. The official management of the bank has never been changed.

The Present Uniondale

When it is learned that Mr. Lipkey is also president of the village board and that Mr. Brickley is clerk, their leadership in the community must be recognized. Although the town has not yet established any system of waterworks, it is well lighted, both as to its streets and residences, through contract with the Wabash Valley Utility Company which furnishes electricity in any form. Uniondale has a number of general stores, as well as several of a special character.

The town has a school of good standing, and several churches and lodges. The oldest religious body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, has been without a pastor for some time. The Methodist Episcopal Church is in charge of Rev. Leroy Huddleston. As to secret and benevolent societies, the Knights of Pythias and Red Men are the strongest of the local bodies.

Tocsin

Tocsin is a modest rural settlement of some 200 residents about five miles east of Kingsland and nine miles northeast of Bluffton on the Chicago & Erie line. It has a few stores, but nothing in the way of industries. The surrounding country, however, is naturally rich and actually productive, and, as the farmers are a thrifty class, for nearly ten years they have been accommodated with a bank at Tocsin. The townspeople, with their stores, are also favored in that direction.

Michael C. Blue

When Tocsin was platted in 1882 by Michael C. Blue, it was simply a station on the old Chicago & Atlantic Railroad. He has

made the place his home ever since, and his energy, honesty and abilities have carried him several times into the halls of the State Legislature. He surveyed the village, gave it its name, made a large addition to the original site on the west and his homestead is near the town site. To the local historian, therefore, the earlier years which he spent in the neighborhood are the most interesting, and the details covering them are reproduced from an account written thirty years ago. It says: "Michael C. Blue was born in Miami County, Ohio, April 16, 1836, son of Uriah and Rachel (Moore) Blue, who were among the earliest settlers of the Miami Valley. In March, 1840, Uriah Blue emigrated to this county with his family, and settled upon the northwest quarter of section 15, Lancaster Township. He entered this land in 1836. The patent is now in Mr. Blue's possession and bears the signature of President Van Buren. They had four children when they came to the county—Mary, Lucinda, Michael C. and James. Their household goods were transported with teams, and a few cows were driven through. No improvements had been made upon the land, and the family pitched their tent beside a great log. During the night a violent snowstorm came up, which almost covered both tent and wagons. Wolves howled on every side, and their snapping teeth, added to their dismal howls, drove the dog inside. Their first introduction to Wells County was anything but pleasant. Word was received by the neighbors who lived down the river that a new family had arrived, and in three or four days a number of them put in an appearance. They helped cut the logs, raise and cover the new cabin, and made the family as comfortable as possible. All were strangers, and Mr. Blue does not remember any of their names, as he was then only four years old. There was not a mouthful of feed for the cattle, and during the spring they became very poor and a part of them perished before the snow was gone. To add to their vexations, the horses strayed away and returned to Miami County. Uriah went after them and was fortunate enough to recover them. The father was a cooper by trade, and was rather an unsuccessful farmer. He finally cleared forty acres, but his chief delight consisted in hunting. He was very successful, and the larder was well supplied with wild meats. Hundreds of deer fell victims to his unerring aim, and the products of the chase maintained his family almost exclusively. Upon his arrival he had $5 in money, $4 of which was expended for four bushels of corn. Being the only cooper in the neighborhood, he made all the barrels, well-buckets and kraut-tubs that were used for miles around. There were no schools in the neighborhood, and the youth was fifteen years old before he could read his first spelling-book, which was pur-

chased with money from the sale of wild blackberries. Sallie Baldwin taught a "select" school at her home, and Michael was one of her first pupils. He early learned the mysteries of the chase, and he also became an expert hunter and trapper. In speaking of his schoolboy costume, Mr. Blue says: 'My pantaloons were made of dressed buckskin; vest and cap of fawn skin, tanned with the hair on, while moccasins of deer skin ornamented my feet.' His father did not favor education in any sense, but Michael was delighted with books. He made barrels until money enough was earned to buy Ray's Third Arithmetic, and he frequently stole out to the woods, where most of his problems were mentally solved. At an early day they had neither lamps nor candles, and Michael would stretch himself on the floor in front of the fire, and with a pile of shavings, lighting one by one, pursued his studies. His persistency brought its reward, and when twenty-five years of age he attended one term at the Murray Academy, and later he taught at Roanoke College. His proficiency entitled him to a certificate and he taught school in Jackson Township, Huntington County, and later eight terms in Wells County. His commission bears the signature of Governor Oliver P. Morton and Lieutenant Governor Conrad Baker. From the age of twenty-one until his term of auditor expired, Mr. Blue was kept continuously in office—first, as constable, then assessor, notary public, surveyor, auditor, etc. He was elected auditor in 1890, but ill-health caused his retirement from office at the end of his term. Mr. Blue was afterward elected to the Legislature and served most creditably for two terms. A story is told of his exciting canvass when he was a candidate for surveyor, during his earlier official career, which is too good to pass over. The office was quite unsolicited by him until very near election day. Then he would have made no effort had not Joseph Meredith called upon him at his log cabin, 12 by 14 feet, and pressed the matter upon him. Mr. Meredith told him that he must make a canvass, as election day was close at hand. The house was small and all thrown together in one room, and Michael disliked to ask his guest to step outside while he changed his clothes. So taking his best suit under his arm he retired to his cornfield near by, and soon returned completely transformed into a presentable candidate for public favor. Borrowing a horse from Iven Richey, he started on the canvass with Meredith. Taking in Rockford and Bluffton, he returned to his home the same day and was elected by a handsome majority."

Samuel Kunkel, Owner of Original Town

Samuel Kunkel, the brother-in-law of Michael C. Blue, bought the original forty-acre tract upon which the latter laid out the village.

Mr. Kunkel erected its first store during the season of 1882, laid in a stock of merchandise, and was appointed the first postmaster of Tocsin, holding the office until February, 1887. Wesley Sowers erected the first residence on the town site, and Dr. Noah Bergman, who had practiced several years at Berne, Adams County, located at Tocsin soon after it was platted as its first physician. The first child born in Tocsin was of the Kunkel family, and it is probable that Doctor Bergman was "called in," although it was not the rule with these pioneer women to have a regular physician to supervise such events.

Grain Business and Bank Established

Mr. Kunkel founded the first grain business which was established at Tocsin, and the place has never been without some kind of a warehouse or elevator since. The present plant is a Studabaker elevator with a capacity of 18,000 bushels.

The Bank of Tocsin, already briefly noted, was established in 1909, with T. J. Sowards as president; G. W. Rupright, vice president, and Frank Garton, cashier. Mr. Sowards still holds the presidency. In the spring of 1910 Mr. Rupright resigned as vice president and was succeeded by I. W. Wasson, who holds not only that position, but is the active cashier, and has the full management of the affairs of the bank. Frank Garton, the original cashier died in September, 1913, and was succeeded by his son, H. S. Garton, who held the position for a year. The latter's successor was John O. Dailey, the present incumbent. The capital of the Bank of Tocsin is $10,000; surplus and undivided profits, $1,600; average deposits, $125,000.

There is only one church within the village limits, that which represents the United Brethren and is in charge of Rev. J. Farmer.

Vera Cruz, a Veteran Village

Vera Cruz is a settlement of perhaps 200 people on the Bluffton, Geneva & Celina Traction line; also located on the Wabash River about seven miles southeast of the county seat. It was called Newville until about 1870, when it was incorporated, and was originally laid out by James Higgins and Christian Sowers in September, 1848. It is one of the oldest villages in the county. Vera Cruz was the site and the center of quite a number of mills in the '70s and '80s. Its first important industry was a woolen factory which was started several years before the former period. Yarn was its principal product. It also had quite a flour mill, which was operated many years by Isaac North

& Company. At the height of its productiveness it ground both wheat and corn. A tile factory and brick yard were operated in the village and a sawmill across the river and to the south.

The Town Now

Its leading industry now is represented by the elevator owned and operated by the Studabaker Grain and Seed Company, which has a capacity of 10,000 bushels. It has also a milk condensing plant and several stores and blacksmith shops. Vera Cruz has a good graded school, the first house provided for it having been erected in 1868. The village was early settled by German Lutherans, and adherents to that faith are still numerous there and in the neighborhood.

The Vitzes, Father and Sons

The St. John's Reformed Lutheran Church was organized at Vera Cruz in 1849, and a regular pastor was engaged five years later. Within the past forty years the name of Vitz has figured prominently in the affairs of this old and tried society. Rev. Peter Vitz, one of the most widely known pastors of that denomination in Indiana, was in charge from 1877 to 1883, and two of his sons, Revs. J. Otto and Oswald P. Vitz, have also been pastors of the society, the latter at a comparatively recent date. Rev. William Schroer is now in service.

The Evangelical Association, which has no local minister, was organized in 1853, was formerly quite strong.

Old Village of Lancaster

The postoffice of Murray, west of the center of Lancaster Township, is little more than a memory of the old village of Lancaster (sometimes called New Lancaster), which is considered the pioneer "permanent" settlement of Wells County. The Millers came in 1832 and located in what was called the "Knox clearing," Jacob remaining in the locality for many years. Mrs. Harvey (afterward Mrs. Sally Aker) was also one of those who came in the early '30s, before even Murray was platted, and remained there for fifty or sixty years.

Murray Platted

The Town of Murray was platted by Jesse Gerhard in October, 1839, and subsequently W. H. Deam and a Mr. Matthews made ad-

ditions. But although pleasantly situated on the north bank of the Wabash, it was too near the successful county seat; and no railroad ever touched it. So that now, virtually all that can be said of Murray is to be classified as long-past history, and nothing in the making. Mr. Gerhard built the grist-mill in 1837, the first in the county, and

Oil Wells at Their Best

it continued to do business under various proprietors for fifty or sixty years. A sawmill was built much later. The first school in the township was opened in the winter of 1838-39 by A. B. Waugh. It was a log house located on the old Harvey farm. For many years the strongest church at Murray was the United Presbyterian, organized in 1846. The Presbyterian Church Building was dedicated in 1861 and the Christian in 1865. It should be added, as a matter of general interest,

that James Dailey and Benjamin Brown were appointed as the first justices of the peace in Lancaster Township in 1841.

Petroleum

Petroleum, in Nottingham Township, was the center of considerable oil excitement in the middle and late '90s, with a number of substantial properties developed. In that movement William A. Kunkel, of Bluffton, was prominent. For several years he had charge of the Cudahy interests, which were afterward sold to the Standard Oil Company, and afterward made profitable investments as an independent operator. He also became director in a number of corporations engaged in the same line of development. The early promises at Petroleum, however, have not materialized in any large degree, although the developments have resulted in the founding of a neat little town. With the failure of the Cincinnati, Bluffton & Chicago Road, also, its present prospects are not of the brightest. The disposal of that road also carries with it the collapse of the local elevator. The creamery is a thing of the past. Petroleum is still the center of a good live stock and farming section, and possesses several substantial evidences of growth. It has five stores, a garage and a bank. The president of the last named is A. R. Williams, and cashier, Henry Schott. The religious and social elements of the town patronize the United Brethren Church, and the Odd Fellows Lodge, both of which are well supported.

Kingsland

Kingsland is a station on the Chicago & Erie Railroad and the line of the Fort Wayne, Bluffton, Muncie & Indiana Traction Company, about 3½ miles south of Ossian and 6½ miles north of Bluffton. It has two or three general stores and a bank, and is to that extent a trading and banking center. A Presbyterian Church was organized at Kingsland in 1886 and a house of worship erected in the following year. Later, a Methodist Society was founded, and of late years they have combined into a union church, of which Rev. Garfield Daw is in charge.

Terrible Railroad Accident Near Kingsland

Early in the afternoon of September 21, 1910, occurred one of the most terrible railroad accidents which is to be recorded in Indiana history. To follow the precision of the coroner's verdict, which

passed upon the responsibility for the deaths of thirty-four victims of the collision between car 303, a southbound special sent out from Bluffton for the accommodation of those going to the fair, and the north-bound car (No. 233), the wreck occurred about 12.18 to 12.20 P. M., "at a point 2,300 feet north of the D. rail of the Fort Wayne & Wabash Valley Company's track north of the Chicago & Erie Railroad tracks at Kingsland." The north-bound was running to Fort Wayne

The Wreck on the Clover Leaf Road

as a regular train, but 303 failed to enter either of the sidings to give the right-of-way to the north-bound regular, and its conductor and motorman were therefore found culpable. Many were badly injured, besides those who died. Among the well-known residents of Bluffton who were killed were H. D. Cook, John W. Tribolet, Seymour Robinson, William D. Burgan, A. Lloyd Brown, Ralph Walser, Lewis C. Justus, and William Beer. The cause of the unusual mortality resulting from the accident was that the floor of the special south-bound train was nearly a foot higher than that of the regular car, and therefore when they collided they completely telescoped; the floor of No.

303 "sliding over and grinding its way along the floor of Car 233 to a distance of about twelve feet of the south end of said car," as stated in the coroner's verdict. Those within the line of this onslaught were crushed to death generally. Some of the bodies of the dead and injured were taken to a near-by grove until help could arrive and the wreckage could be cleared from the track. Afterward the dead and the injured were taken to Fort Wayne, Bluffton and other points designated by relatives and friends. It was a season of special mourning for Bluffton, and its schools were closed for a week as a mark of respect and sympathy for those who had suffered human loss in the wreck.

Rockford

The rural hamlet of Rockford, in the southwest corner of Rock Creek Township, was at one time quite an industrial center. Perhaps the earliest was the saw and gristmill erected by Rev. Hallet Barber, a few rods below the bridge, which was the scene of a fatal explosion in the late '70s. The plant was never rebuilt. The postoffice was first known as Barber's Mills. The Town of Rockford, as it was known, was platted in September, 1849, by Solomon Johnson and Matthew Davis. In the '70s and '80s quite a number of factories were established in the vicinity of Rockford—the Brown & Ware tile factory in 1872, and a similar plant in 1880, by Braner Brothers, across the creek, and a sawmill, across the creek east of town in 1875 by Milton Davis.

Other Small Population Centers

Banner, sometimes called Banner City, is a small hamlet about a mile west of Uniondale on the Chicago & Erie line. It was made a station of the old Chicago & Atlantic Railroad about 1887.

Craigville, Reiffton, Domestic and still other postoffices or hamlets strung along various rural delivery routes may also be recalled by old-timers and those familiar with every section of the county. But it is quite safe to say that no points of historic interest have been omitted which should cause severe criticism.

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